1st Ed

Ex Libris

SEYMOUR DURST



. FORT NEW AMSTERDAM (NEW YORK), 1651.

When you leave, please leave this book
Because it has been said
"Ever'thing comes t' him who waits
Except a loaned book."

AVERY ARCHITECTURAL AND FINE ARTS LIBRARY
GIFT OF SEYMOUR B. DURST OLD YORK LIBRARY



Fort Amsterdam & Village.—1623.—



New York. 1832.—

Lith. Risso & Browne.

HISTORIC TALES

OF

OLDEN TIME:

CONCERNING

THE EARLY SETTLEMENT AND ADVANCEMENT

OF

NEW-YORK CITY AND STATE.

FOR THE

USE OF FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS.

BY

JOHN F. WATSON,

Author of Annals of Philadelphia, and Member of the Historical Societies of Pennsylvania, New-York, and Massachusetts.

ILLUSTRATED WITH PLATES.

Oh! dear is the tale of Olden Time.

NEW-YORK:

W. E. DEAN, PRINTER.

PUBLISHED BY COLLINS AND HANNAY.

1832.

AVERY
CLASSICS
F
128.1
.W33
C1

Entered according to the Act of Congress, in the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty-two, by COLLINS & HANNAY, *in the Clerk's Office of the Southern District of New-York.*

ADVERTISEMENT

TO

PARENTS, GUARDIANS, AND PRECEPTORS.

It is impossible to contemplate the wonderful progress of *New-York City and State*, in its actual advance to greatness, without feeling our hearts stirred with deep emotion, exciting us to gratitude and praise. But two centuries ago it began its career as a little *Dorp* or village, and now it is the great commercial emporium of the Union!

It should be the just pride and exultation of *an American* to belong to such a country; and if so, what should offer him more interesting and edifying reading than the history of the infancy, and progress to manhood, of such a people? Impressed with such thoughts, we have supposed it might prove profitable to awaken in the breasts of the *rising generation* a fond regard for the annals of their forefathers: to whose enterprise, skill, and

industry (under God,) they owe so much of their present enjoyments, and distinction as a *new people.*

Youth have by nature an ardent desire and an earnest curiosity to learn the causes of things around them; and it is equally the dictate of parental indulgence and of Bible instruction, that "when your children shall ask you, wherefore are these things so, then shall ye answer them."

With views and feelings like these, we have been induced to prepare the present pages, illustrative of the early events of their country, of its inhabitants, their manners and customs; such as things were in their days of rusticity and simplicity, when so wholly unlike the present display of fashion, pomp, and splendour. We aim, therefore, to lay before the young such a picture of the past, as may offer to their contemplation the most prominent and striking doings and things of the founders and settlers of the city and state; intending herein to restrict our exhibition to those incidents which could most surprise, amuse, or interest their minds, while at the same time it may increase their store of knowledge concerning *country and home*, by dilineating those early times, and days by-gone, when New-York was but a provincial town, and the state a rugged woody country, with only here

and there a humble village, "few and far between."

The facts in the main have been derived from Moulton's recent Historical Notices of New-York, and from Watson's Annals of Olden Time. It is by multiplying these local associations of ideas concerning our country that we hope to generate patriotism; binding the heart, by forcible ties, to the paternal soil.

"Go, call thy sons; instruct them what *a debt*
They owe their ancestors, and make them vow
To pay it, by transmitting down entire
Those sacred rights to which themselves were born."

THE AUTHOR.

Philadelphia county, 1831.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	Page
First settlement of the City of New-York,	9
——————————Albany,	15
The original Exploration of the country,	19
The first Colonists,	28
Notices of early Dutch times,	30
Early Inland Settlements,	37
The Indians,	46
Steam-boats,	59
Inland Settlers and Pioneers,	63

Olden time: Researches and Reminiscences concerning NEW-YORK CITY, *as follows; to wit:*

Introductory and general views of the city,	75
Primitive New-York,	77
Ancient Memorials,	79
Local changes and local facts,	91
Manners and customs,	120
Memorials of the Dutch dynasty,	128
Gardens, farms, &c.	134
Remarkable facts and incidents,	138
Apparel,	143
Furniture and equipage,	158
Changes of prices,	165
Superstitions,	166
Miscellaneous facts,	168
Incidents of the war at New-York,	176
Residences of British officers,	187
Ancient edifices,	192
Reflections and notices,	198
Watering Places,	203
The Erie Canal,	209

HISTORIC TALES

OF

OLDEN TIME.

FIRST SETTLEMENT OF THE CITY OF NEW-YORK.

"The *city* rear'd in beauteous pride—
And stretching street on street,
By thousands drew aspiring sons."

It was in the year 1609, in the delightful month of *September*, a month always furnishing pleasant days in our climate, that the celebrated Hudson, the discoverer, first furrowed the waters of the present New-York harbour with the keel of his adventurous yatch the Half Moon. Then "a still and solemn desert hung round his lonely bark!" How unlike was all which he could then see or contemplate, to what we now behold! How little could his utmost reach of forethought realize the facts of present accomplishment—a populous and wealthy city; and a river scene, crowded with numerous vessels freighted with foreign and domestic plenty! Then the site of New-York presented only a wild and rough aspect: covered with a thick forest, its beach broken and sandy, or rocky and full of inlets forming water marshes—the natives, there, were more

repulsive than their neighbours, being gruff and indisposed to trade. We proceed to facts.

Whether Hudson actually landed upon New-York *Island* is a little dubious, since he does not expressly mention it in his journal, but speaks of the reserve and gruffness of its inhabitants; and contrasting their unfriendliness, so unlike all the other natives, who were every where warm-hearted and generous. Of the Wappingi, the people on the western shore of the harbour, he speaks with warm regard; they were daily visiters and dealers, bringing with them for trade and barter, furs, oysters, corn, beans, pumpkins, squashes, grapes, and some apples. Among these Indians, say at Communipa and neighbourhood, *Hudson landed.*

But although Hudson has not himself mentioned any thing special of his landing in the harbour of New-York, we possess a very striking tradition of the event, as told by the Delawares, and preserved for posterity by Heckewelder, the Indian historian. They described themselves as greatly perplexed and terrified when they beheld the approach of the strange object—the ship in the offing. They deemed it a visit from the Manitto, coming in his big house or canoe, and began to prepare an entertainment for his reception. By and bye, the chief, *in red clothes and a glitter of metal*, with others, came ashore in a smaller canoe; mutual salutations and signs of friendship were exchanged; and after a while, strong drink was offered, which made all gay and happy. In time, as their mutual acquaintance progressed, the *white skins* told them they would stay with them, if they allowed them as much land for cultivation as the hide of a bullock, spread before them, could cover or *encompass*. The request was granted;

and the pale men thereupon, beginning at a starting point on the hide, with a knife, cut it up into one long extended narrow strip or thong, sufficient to encompass a large place! Their cunning equally surprised and amused the confiding and simple Indians, who willingly allowed the success of their artifice, and backed it with a cordial welcome. Such was the origin of the site of New-York, on the place called *Manhattan*, (i. e. Manahachtanienks,) a revelling name, importing "the place where they all got drunk!" and a name *then bestowed* by the Indians as commemorative of that first great meeting. The natives then there, descendants of the once warlike Minsi tribe of the Lenni Lenape, were the same class of people called by Heckewelder the Delawares or Munseys. The Indians, in their address afterwards, to Gov. Keift, said, "when you first arrived on our shores you were sometimes in want of food. Then we gave you our beans and corn, and let you eat our oysters and fish. We treated you as we should ourselves, and gave you our daughters as wives."

The first concern of the discoverer was to proceed up the "Groot Rivier"—the great North River; the facts of which will be told in another chapter. After Hudson had occupied himself, in exploring and returning, 22 days, he sat sail for Europe; and his favourable reports gave rise to an expedition of two ships in 1614, under Captains Adrian Blok and Hendrick Christiaanse. 'Twas under their auspices that the first actual settlement was begun upon the site of the present New-York, consisting in the first year of *four houses*, and in the next year (1615), of a redoubt on the site of the Macomb houses, now on Broadway. To this small

Dorp or village they gave the stately name of New Amsterdam. The settlement was wholly of a commercial and military character, having solely for its object the traffic in the *fur trade*. At the same time another similar settlement was formed at Albany. Colonization and land culture was an after-concern.

At the time *Holland* projected this scheme of commercial settlement, it was in full wealth and vigour, building annually 1000 ships; having 20,000 vessels and 100,000 mariners. *The City of Amsterdam* was at the head of enterprize. Its *merchants* projected the scheme of sending out Capt. Henry Hudson (an Englishman) to discover a northern passage to the *East Indies*. In this attempt he of course failed; but, as some reparation for the consequent disappointment to his employers—"the Directors of the East India Company," he fell upon the expedient of sailing southward to Virginia, to make something there by traffic, &c. In so doing he fell upon the eventual and memorable discovery of the Delaware and Hudson Rivers. This was in the year 1609.

In March 1614, the States General gave out their grant, for the purpose of the *fur trade*, of this new country to "the Amsterdam licensed trading *West India* Company," intending New-York as a part of their fancied West Indies! Although the Dutch thought little or nothing of colonization, the *English* then in Holland, exiles for conscience sake, early desired to form a colony at New-York, and actually embarked for that purpose in 1620, but were prevented by the fraud of the Dutch captain, as it was alleged, and were actually landed at Plymouth; forming there the me-

morable "Pilgrims of Plymouth"—the forefathers of New England.

In the year 1623, "the Privileged West India Company," under its new charter of 1621, began its operations along the Hudson, for the first time, with a direct view of colonization. In 1623, colonists and supplies were sent out with Capt. Kornelis Jacobse Méy, and were most heartily welcomed by the few previous inhabitants. Before these arrived, they had been two years without supplies and destitute; so that some of the Staten Islanders had cut up the sails of their boats for necessary clothing. In compliment to Capt. Méy, and in memory of his welcome arrival in the bay of Manhattan, they named the bay *Port May*. At this time they commenced their Fort Amsterdam, on the Battery Point, southward of their former redoubt; and finished it, under Gov. Wouter Van Twiller, in 1635.

It might serve to show the state of the fur trade about this time, to state, that in the first year of Governor Minuit's administration, they collected and exported 4,700 beaver and otter skins, valued at 27,125 guilders or 11,300 dollars; and that in ten years afterwards, they shipped in one year 13,513 beavers and 1661 otters.

The settlement and fort continued to bear the name of Nieuw Amsterdam, by the Dutch, down to the time of the surrender by Governor Stuyvesant to the English, in 1664. Then for ten years under the rule of Cols. Nicolls and Lovelace, acting for the Duke of York, it was called *New-York*; but in August, 1673, a Dutch fleet, in time of war, recaptured it from the British, and while exercising their rule for their High Mightinesses of Holland, to the time of the peace in

1674, they called the place *New Orange*, in compliment to the Prince of Orange, and the fort they called Willem Hendrick.

The city being restored to the British by the treaty, was redelivered to the British in October, 1674. The fort then took the name of Fort James, being built of quadrangular form, having four bastions, two gates, and 42 cannon. The city again took the name of New-York, once and forever.

The city was laid out in streets, some of them crooked enough, in 1656. It then contained by enumeration "120 houses, with extensive garden lots," and 1000 inhabitants. In 1677 another estimate of the city was made, and ascertained to contain 368 houses. In the year 1674, an assessment of "the most wealthy inhabitants" having been made, it was found that the sum total of 134 estates amounted 95,000*l.*

During the military rule of Governor Colve, who held the city for one year under the above-mentioned capture, for the States of Holland, every thing partook of a military character, and the laws still in preservation at Albany show the energy of a rigorous discipline. Then the Dutch mayor, at the head of the city militia, held his daily parades before the City Hall (Stadt Huys,) then at Coenties Slip; and every evening at sunset, he received from the principal guard of the fort, called the *hoofd wagt*, the keys of the city, and thereupon proceeded with a guard of six to lock the city gates; then to place a *Burger-wagt*—a citizen-guard, as night-watches at assigned places. The same mayors also went the rounds at sunrise to open the gates, and to restore the keys to the officer of the fort. All this was surely a toilsome service for the domestic habits of the peaceful

The Dutch Fort & English Church at Albany



The Dutch Church at Albany, on State St.



Lith. Risso & Browne

Founded 1656. – Rebuilt 1715. – Razed 1806.

citizens of that day, and must have presented an irksome honour to any mayor who loved his comfort and repose.

It may amuse some of the present generation, so little used to Dutch names, to learn some of the titles once so familiar in New-York, and now so little understood. Such as,—

De Heer Officier, or Hoofd-Schout—High Sheriff.
De Fiscael, or Procureur Gen.—Attorney General.
Wees-Meesters—Guardians of orphans.
Roy-Meesters—Regulators of fences.
Groot Burgerrecht and Klein Burgerrecht—The great and small citizenship, which then marked the two orders of society.
Eyck-Meester—The Weigh Master.
The Schout, (the Sheriff) Bourgomasters and Schepens—then ruled the city "as in all the cities of the Fatherland."
Geheim Schryver—Recorder—of secrets.

FIRST SETTLEMENT OF ALBANY.

"But times are alter'd—trade has changed the scene,
A *city* rears its form where only huts were seen."

This city began its career cotemporary with New-York, having been visited and explored, as the head of navigation, by the discoverer, Capt. Hudson, on the 19*th September*, 1609; a day long to be remembered and respected as their *natal day*, as a people, by the present Albanians. In this vicinity he remained with his little ship the Half Moon four days, cultivating friendship

and trade with the natives, by whom his ship and people were much visited. The Mohawks—Maquas, were dwelling on the western side of the river, and the Mohiccans on the eastern side. The frank and generous natives made them every where welcome; and they in turn offered to make their hearts gay "with wine and aqua vitæ;" so much so, that one of them became much intoxicated, and so astonished the others, "that they knew not how to take it, and made ashore quickly in their canoes." The story of this drunken revel became a memorable tradition, long retained among all the Indian tribes; and this incident, connected with a similar one remembered at New-York island, gave rise to the name of Manhattan; i. e. "the place where they all got drunk." The descendants of the Delawares often spoke to Heckewelder of the manner in which the white skins first dealt out strong drink from a large *hock-hack*, (a gourd or bottle) which produced staggering and happy feelings.

It was under the visit of Schippers (captains) Blok and Christiaanse in 1614, that it got its first redoubt and first settlement on *the island* below Albany ferry. To this they gave the name of Casteel Eylandt, (Castle Island,) in allusion to its defence; having mounted there two brass and eleven *stone* guns, with a little garrison of a dozen soldiers, commanded by an *opper-hoofdt* or chief: the whole making just as many men as big guns! This little cattle fort was abandoned in 1617, having encountered there an unexpected enemy in the annual flood. They went thence four miles southward, to the shore of a creek called Nordtman's Kill, where they erected another defence, and there held a memorable

treaty with the Indians, which they long remembered and often referred to.

In 1623 they laid the proper commencement of the present Albany, in the construction there of *Fort Orange*, and giving to the little village the name of *Auranie*,—names in compliment and respect to their Prince of Orange.

Albany was always fruitful in names, sometimes bearing several at the same time. They might be noticed generally thus, to wit: It was called Beverwyck until 1623; then Fort Orange until 1647; then Williamstadt until 1664; when it first received, by reason of the British conquest, the name of *Albany* or Albania after the duke. During all the preceding period it bore also the popular nickname of *Fuyck*, which means hoop-net, in reference to their use of it in fishing. The Indians of the Munsey tribe had given it another name, calling it Laaphawachking, which meant the place of stringing wampum beads, for which the Dutch of Albany were prized. It had also other names among other tribes; thus it was called Skaghneghtady, or Schenectadea, a term signifying "the other side of the river." The Mohiccans called it Gaschtenick; the Delawares called it Mahicawaittuck; and the Iroquois, Chohotatia.

It having been the advanced post for the fur trade, it was of course, for numerous years, the proper *Beverwyck* for the beaver and otter sales of the Indians. It was the proper market for all which "the great five nations" could gather from their proper hunting grounds —their *Couxsachraga*—importing the dismal wilderness. From this cause Albany was, for more than a century, a place almost as common to Indian visitors as to whites.

The fort, a great building of stone, was constructed on a high steep hill at the west end of State-street, having around it a high and thick wall, where they now have a state house and a fine commanding view over the town below. The English church was just below it, at the west end of a market; and the original old Dutch church, now down, of Gothic appearance, stood in the middle of State-street at the eastern end—of which see a picture.

Professor Kalm, who visited Albany in 1749, has left us some facts. All the people then understood Dutch. All the houses stood gable-end to the street; the ends were of brick and the side walls of planks or logs; the gutters on the roofs went out almost to the middle of the street, greatly annoying travellers in their discharge. At the *stoopes* (porches) the people spent much of their time, especially on the shady side; and in the evenings they were filled with people of both sexes. The streets were dirty, by reason of the cattle possessing their free use during the summer nights. They had no knowledge of stoves, and their chimnies were so wide that one could drive through them with a cart and horses. Many people still made wampum to sell to the Indians and traders. Dutch manners every where prevailed; but their dress in general was after the English form. They were regarded as close in traffic; were very frugal in their house economy and diet. Their women were over-nice in cleanliness, scouring floors and kitchen utensils several times a week; rising very early and going to sleep very late. Their servants were chiefly negroes. Their breakfast was *tea* without milk, using sugar by putting a small bit into the mouth. Their dinner was buttermilk and bread; and if to that they

added sugar, it was deemed delicious. Sometimes they had bread and milk, and sometimes roasted or boiled meats. The New Englanders thought the Albanians much too close, and there was no good-will to them in turn.

THE ORIGINAL EXPLORATION OF THE COUNTRY.

"My soul, revolving periods past, looks back
On all the former darings of that vent'rous race."

THE memorable *landing day* of the discoverer and his crew was on the 3*d* *September*, 1609. On that day, so soft and genial as a grateful summer season, as Capt. Hudson was ranging the line of our Jersey sea-bound shore, in going northward from the mouth of the Delaware, which he had just before discovered, he beheld, far a-head in the north-western sky, the Highlands of Nave-sink, and not long after the lofty and woody lands of Staten Island; both at once designating the locality and conferring the name of "the Great River of the Mountains." Such conspicuous objects, seen far off at sea, and mounting upward into the calm blue sky, were too attractive and unusual not to invite a nearer approach and closer inspection. Their hearts beat high with vague and mysterious conceptions about the unknown—*Terra Incognita.* Examination alone could allay or repress the feverish curiosity of the mind; and to sail inward to the land, and to visit this new region of the west, became at once the object and the

desire of every mariner. Little thought they, however, as they passed the sea-beach strand of Monmouth county, and looked ashore upon the rude and blank margin of Long Branch, of the improvement and fashionable resort to which it was destined; and still less did they imagine they were to find and explore a great river, which was to take the name and confer an immortality of fame upon its discoverer and explorer. Thus events in time, sometimes trivial in themselves, become by the force of circumstances the counters of whole ages.

The first land so made, on the day aforesaid, was Sandt Hook—Sandy Hook. There he observed the waters were swarming with fish, and he soon after sent his boat's crew with a net to procure a supply. The tradition has been that in so doing they first made ashore on *Coney Island*, (wishing perhaps to see the opposite side of the bay,) and that there Hudson was at first received by the natives, the Matouwacks. There they found vast numbers of plum trees loaded with fruit, and many of them surrounded and covered with grape vines. While the ship, the Half Moon, was at her anchorage at the Horse-shoe harbour, she was much visited by the natives of the Jersey shore, a race of Delawares called *Sanhikans*; they rejoicing greatly at the arrival of the strangers, and bringing them for their acceptance green tobacco, dried currants or wortleberries, &c. The shores were lined with natives, wearing mantles of furs and feathers, and having copper ornaments and pipes. The crew, on going ashore, were received with great cordiality, and were conducted for observation some distance into the woods of Monmouth county. During the week which was passed at this



The arrival of Captain Hudson at Sandy Hook_ Sep.tr 3.rd 1609._ Lith. Risso & Browne.

anchorage, a boat was sent with an exploring party to sound and examine the passage of the Narrows, called by them the *Hoofden*, or head lands; but the men, in returning, were unexpectedly attacked by two passing canoes of 26 Indians, in which rencontre one Colman, an Englishman, was killed, and two others wounded, by their arrows. The Indians were supposed to have acted in alarm, and seemed to have had no design of conquering, but made off as hastily as they could. Possibly they were of the same race who dwelt on York Island, and who, from their dread of reprisal, may have been afterwards so reluctant to free intercourse and trade. Colman was buried at the Hook, at the place called Colman's point.

The country thus discovered took the name of New Belgium (Nova Belgica) and New Netherland (Nieuw Nederlandt). The North River was called by Hudson, not after his own name, as we since should designate it, but "the Great River"—Groot Rivier. After the year 1623, it was sometimes named in writings the *Mauritius*, in honour of Prince Maurice; by others it was often called Manhattan river. But its most prevalent name in common acceptation was the Noordt Rivier (North River), both as a distinction to the Delaware River, which they called their South River, and as discriminating it from the Oost Rivier—East River. To the Indians it was known as the Cohohatatea and Shatemuc, and Heckewelder says it bore the name of Mahicannittuck, meaning the River of the Mohiccans, who dwelt all along its eastern side.

Staten Island, was called Staaten Eylandt by the Dutch, and Aquehonga Manacknong by the Indians residing there. They were Mohiccans, a tribe of the

Lenni Lenape or Delawares. Seals were once numerous back of the Island, and in New-York harbour, near to the Communipaw side. Robins' reef near there (originally spelt *Robyns rift*), meant the seals' place; "Robyn" being the name of a seal. Governor's Island was originally called Nooten Eylandt, or Nut Island, in reference to its abundance of nut trees; and was formerly nearly joined to Long Island by a low intervening morass and a small dividing creek.

On the morning of the 12th September, Capt. Hudson entered the mouth of the "Groot Rivier" and cast anchor, when 28 canoes, full of men, women, and children, came off to them; but from fear of treachery they were not permitted to board. At noon his ship went onward two leagues higher. And now, having begun the memorable exploration of the river, we shall endeavour to mark his daily progress of ascent and descent, and carefully note the names of Indian tribes, and the names which they bestowed on localities; for as their names were always expressive of things about the place, their preservation may some day serve to elucidate some dubious question in history.

In two days more Hudson reached the high and wild regions of West Point, where, looking around upon the elevation of 1500 feet, he records that "the land grew very high and mountainous." These mountain regions bore the name of *Mateawan;* and there the Indians held the traditionary tale of the fearful mammoth, called by them the *Yagesho*, which sometimes dismayed these highland Wabingi. The scenery was grand and sublime. "He perceived (says Moulton) at one time the narrow stream upon which he had entered, abruptly struggling with the angles of the hills, through

broken rocks, under overhanging precipices, or along the base of perpendicular iron-bound summits, whose opposite sides indicated a former union which some convulsion of nature had severed. Here a perpendicular presented, there a declivity; here terrace rose upon terrace, there rocks upon rocks: the whole a wild and magnificent scene." How their hearts must have throbbed with pure sublimity of emotion, seeing such rugged and horrific wilds, contemplating their own loneliness, so far in an unknown and dubious region; fearing dangers, yet delighted with actual vision, with scenery so grand and picturesque!

By the 15th September he had passed the high mountains between Peekskill and Newburgh, making 50 miles in one day, and observing "great store of salmons in the river" (now all gone). He came at night to the place of the present Catskill Landing, where he found "a very loving people and very old man, by whom he and his crew were very well used." The manner of this reception may be interesting now to contemplate. Hudson was taken ashore in one of their canoes with an old man, a chief. The house he entered was neatly made of bark of trees, well finished within and without. He saw much of Indian corn and beans drying, enough to load three ships; mats were spread to sit on, and eatables were immediately brought to them in wooden bowls. Two men were quickly sent off with bows and arrows for game, and soon returned with two pigeons. They also killed a *fat dog*, and skinned it with shells. Pumpkins, grapes, plums, and tobacco, grew about the place.

The next day, the 17th, Hudson anchored in the neighbourhood of the present Hudson city, little dream-

ing then of his ever giving name to the place or to the river. About this place he lingered some time, as being near the head of navigation, and still more he rested near the same place on his return, by reason of head winds; just as if there were some mysterious connection between his choice of a stopping-place and the choice made by posterity, in the year 1784, of a city in the same place to bear his distinguished name! It was in this vicinity that their eyes were gratified with the sublime heights of the *Kaatberges*, where the highest, the Round Top, lifted its awful form 3,800 feet.

After making the necessary soundings, by boat, over the *Overslaugh*, the yatch reached in safety the Castle Island just below Albany. She was of course of easy draft, and must have been a small vessel, though called a ship; probably of the burthen of sixty tons.

On the 19th September he again weighed anchor, and ascended six miles higher up; thus making his highest point of ascension equal to the upper end of the present Albany. The particulars of his stay there are related under the article concerning that settlement.

On the 23d, Hudson started on his return from Albany. In their descent they stopped in the neighbourhood of the present Red Hook, and caught within an hour "two dozen of mullets, breames, basses, and barbils." When they anchored off the present Poughkeepsie, they were visited by some natives bringing with them Indian corn.

By the 29th he had arrived at the head of the Highlands, called by him "the northernmost of the mountains," where he anchored in or near the bay of the present Newburgh; and then he could not forbear to make the remark, since so obvious to others, that

"*here* was a very pleasant place to build a towne." Newburgh, so beautiful in its aspect and surrounding scenery seen from the river, has every thing to delight the eye. At this place he was visited by the Wabingi.

The next stopping-place was in the vicinity of Stony Point, and at the mouth of Haverstraw Bay. Here the natives, the proper Highlanders, came in numbers to the ship, expressing their admiration at what they saw of the great canoe and the white skins. One of them, in his eagerness to get something away which might gratify curiosity at home, had attempted clandestinely to enter the cabin windows, when the mate with heedless cruelty struck off his hand with a sabre, and the poor fellow fell back into the water and was drowned.

The next day, the 2d of October, they reached the neighbourhood of Fort Washington, where they were assailed with the arrows of some assembled natives, who came off in canoes. Fire arms and cannon were discharged in return, by which nine of the Indians were killed; a deplorable severity.

On the 4th October Hudson "left the great mouth of the great river," and with full sail put off to sea. Thus terminated about one month of successful exploration, in a fine season, and with almost continual fine weather. He was just eleven days in ascending and eleven more in returning. Several times he was grounded, but was readily got off. Such small vessels was the practice of the age. Vessels of only 20 to 30 tons went out to Virginia from England. A steam vessel, since, bearing the name of "Hudson," performs now the same voyage in almost as many hours as Hudson then used days!

Such were the results to which he was so unconsciously opening *his* introductory measures.

As a navigator, Hudson seems to have been prudent, skilful, dignified, and humane; and well deserved to have lived to have witnessed some of the developments of his eventful discovery. But his noble career was soon closed. After arriving at Dartmouth in England, on the 7th November, after a safe voyage, and acquiring great fame for his discovery, he embarked again in April 1610, on his favourite expedition—the discovery of the north-west passage to India. In the neighbourhood of Iceland his crew mutinied; and on Sunday the 21st June, 1611, they forced Capt. Hudson and his youthful son, and seven others, adrift in a shallop; and, painful to tell, they were never heard of more! Whether they got to Digg's cape, which was purposed, and massacred; or whether involved in inextricable masses of driving ice and perished, heaven only knows. The mutineers, after much peril and sufferings of hunger, and a loss of more than half their number, reached Ireland September 6, 1611.

None of the name of Hudson appeared to survive and to enjoy, as a family pre-eminence, the honours of this famed navigator, probably because he may have left no male issue. One of his family connection, Wm. Hudson, who settled at Philadelphia at the foundation of that city, was a distinguished man; once a clergyman in Barbadoes, he became a friend, and left a respectable family, now extinct in its male issue.

Another exploration was instituted by the West India Company, in sending out, in 1614, two ships commanded by Capt. Adrian Blok and Hendrick Christiaanse. The former arrived first, and his ship having

accidentally burned, he built another on the East River; a first demonstration to the simple natives of the superior skill of the Charistooni—iron workers. With this vessel he made his examinations along that river to *Helle-gadt*. To the Sound he gave the name of Groot Bai—great bay, and examined, as he proceeded, the places along its shores. At the far end he met with Schipper Christiaanse, and both vessels soon after proceeded to their investigations up the great river, the Hudson; leaving behind them to perpetuate their memory Blok Island and Christiaanse Eylandt, the same since called No Man's land or Martha's Vineyard. They proceeded up to Castle Island, Albany, and there made a settlement.

It may be mentioned in conclusion, as to the nations and residences of the Indians, that the Mohiccans (Mohicanni) dwelt on the eastern side of the Hudson, from the Tappan sea up to its head. The Mohawks (spelt Maquas and Mackwaas) held all the western side, from the head waters to the Kaatskill mountains. The Wabingi, called Wappingers in later years by the English, together with the Sankikani, occupied from thence down to Amboy bay. The Mohawks on the western side, were in general unfriendly to the Mohiccans on the other side, and eventually became their conquerors.

The "Racks" so called, along the river, were Dutch names for Reaches. Thus, Martelaers rack meant the Martyr's reach or struggling place; Lange rack, was Long reach; and Klauver rack, Clover reach, &c.

It might perhaps serve to show the former peaceful state of the Hudson waters, to state a fact recorded by Vander Donck, as a fact known to himself at the time, and sufficiently strange to us now, that in the spring of

1647, *two whales* swam up the river many miles: one returned and stranded about 10 or 12 miles from the sea-shore; the other kept on, and stranded not far from Cahoe's Falls, at what is since called Whale Island, opposite the city of Troy. The oil was secured by the inhabitants, but the flesh long tainted the air of the country. Kalm, in 1749, confirmed the above, in saying it was then a report at Albany that a whale had once got up the river quite to the town: he also mentioned that porpoises even then occasionally got up there.

THE FIRST COLONISTS.

"First in the race, that won their country's fame."

The earliest colonists who came out for professed purposes of permanent settlement, were those brought out in 1623, in the ship of Capt. Kornelis Jacobse Méy. Soon after, two ships of the West India Company brought out as professed agriculturists, the *Waalons* from the river Waal, and having for their first governor or director, *Peter Minuit.* They appear to have settled in 1625 upon Long Island, at a bend of the shore at Brooklyn, called *Wal-bocht*, a word importing the *Waaloon bend:* a place since noted for being, at its high river bank, the depository of *eleven thousand* of the American dead, from the prison ships in the time of the war of the revolution. Jan Joris Rapaelje appears to have been their chief man; and his daughter Sarah,

born 9th June, 1625, and afterwards the widow Foley, was long honoured as "*the first-born child;*" and for that cause was presented a tract of land by the governor, in consideration of that distinction and her widowhood.

The terms of encouragement to agriculturists and settlers was great, and especially to those who should go out to the "Groot Rivier" of Hudson, with the enterprize, force, and capital of *Patroons;* a name denoting something baronial and lordly in rank and means. They were such as should undertake to plant a colony of fifty souls, upwards of 15 years old; taking them out, if needful, in divisions of a fourth each in four years. To such the preference was given in absolute property, of such lands as they should choose, being four miles along the river and as far back as they desired; and all goods which they should want at any time imported, was to be done for them at $7\frac{1}{2}$ a ton. The passengers were to have been transported in the ships of the company, paying only for passage and provisions six stuyvers daily, equal to but $12\frac{1}{2}$ cents per day. Only think what an inconsiderable sum to allure emigrants to settle a land such as New-York is now known to be. And yet but very few so took up lands as virtual lords of manors! All other individuals going out as settlers, were free to take up as much land "as they should have ability and property to improve;" and provided also, *that "they should satisfy the Indians for the land they should seitle upon."* One of the most exceptionable features in the terms, in our sense of morality now, was, that the company would "use their endeavour to supply the colonists with as many blacks as they conveniently can." To this cause the hateful traffic began; and the Indians, who first saw them, pronounced

them a *race of devils*. Killian Van Renselaer, a director and merchant of Amsterdam, was among the first-named Patroons, who procured his location at and about the present Albany, to which lands he in 1630 gave the name of Renselaerwyck. The Patroon himself settled on the first large island below the present Albany, where he laid out a place called Renselaerburgh. Those who can now pass the place in the steamboats should look out the position, and reflect on its change from then to now! The same family, now resident in Albany and very wealthy, bear now the name of "*the Patroon.*" Michael Pauuw, another director, took up the lands of "*Hobocan Hackingh*, lying opposite the island Manhates," New-York, to which he gave the name of *Pavonia;* but as he never made any settlements, his lands reverted.

NOTICES OF EARLY DUTCH TIMES.

"Such once;—no longer such,—are passed away."

In endeavouring to rescue from oblivion some of the early *traits of character* which marked the age of the founders, we may, with Mr. Moulton's history, notice but to condemn it—that "affectation of squeamishness in some, who now revolt at the idea of coming in contact with the rude founders of our country; as if such facts of our domestic history were beneath the dignity of history, so called: they would restrict it only to great personages and great events; and thus by too much

generalization lose in *individual interest* more than could be gained in abstract philosophy and politics."

We shall therefore endeavour to exhibit something characteristic of the times, the doings, and the familiar concerns, of those Dutch burghers.

The Dutch Reformed were always thorough church-going members, and fully fraught with ardent zeal for all the faith of Calvin. They therefore gave no countenance to Lutherans, Jews, Quakers, &c. But when the English came to rule, it sufficiently chagrined them to see Governor Lovelace so lax, as in 1674 to authorize the Lutheran congregation to erect a church, and to "seek benevolence from their brethren here and *on the Delaware.*" It was about this time that *Edmundson*, a friend from England, was allowed to preach to such as would assemble. He held his first meeting at an *inn*, where the magistrates also attended, probably as much to check and restrain errors as to profit themselves. The celebrated Geo. Fox was also in the neighbourhood, preaching on Long Island, and particularly to a congregation under a great oak tree, still standing at Flushing, the property of the Bowne family. All this toleration was strikingly different from the previous rule under the Dutch governor Stuyvesant. He had ordered the head of the above-named family out to Holland for trial, for the public performance of his religious views as a Quaker. About that time the public peace had been disturbed by those Quakers, whom the Friends themselves sometimes censured as "ranters." Such a one, as the records state, "pretending to be divinely inspired, came into the city and made terrible hue and cry in the streets and on the bridge, crying woe, woe, to the crowne of pride and the drunkards of

Ephraim: Twoo woes past, and the third comming, except you repent. Repent—repent, as the kingdom of God is at hand!" He also entered the church, making a great noise, for the purpose of disturbance, as their manner was. Finally, he was prosecuted, flogged, and banished.

The Dutch Reformed Church—"the Gereformeerde Kerck," was erected *within the fort* by Gov. Keift in 1642, being a stone structure, with split oaken shingles then called "wooden slate." The cause and manner of its establishment has been curiously related by De Vries, saying, "as I was every day with Comdr. Keift, I told him, that as he had now made a fine tavern—the Stadt-herberg, at Coenties slip—that we also wanted very badly *a church*; for until then we had nothing but *a mean barn* (in appearance) for our worship; whereas in New England, their *first* concern was a fine church, and we ought to do the same. Wherefore, I told him I would contribute a hundred guilders, and he, as governor, should precede me. Whereupon we agreed, and chose J. P. Kuyter and I. C. Damen, with themselves, as four *Kerck-Meesters* to superintend the building. John and Richard Ogden contracted to build the same of stone for 2500 guilders, say 416*l.* It was to be 72 feet by 52 feet, and 16 feet high. After its construction, the town bell was removed to it. There it was a kind of *fac totum*, and may possibly account for the present partiality for *campanalary* music still so fostered and prevalent in New-York. All mechanics and labourers began and ended work at the *ringing*; all tavern-keepers shut house after the ringing; courts and suitors assembled at the ringing; and deaths and funerals were announced by the toll.

New-York, like other colonies, had also its plague of *witchcraft*. In 1665 a man and wife were arraigned and tried as witches, and a special verdict of *guilty* was brought in by the jury against one of them. In 1672 the inhabitants of West Chester complained to the governor and council against a witch which had come among them; she having been before imprisoned and condemned as a witch at Hartford. In 1673 a similar complaint was also made; but the military governor, Capt. Colve, a son of the ocean, not under this land influence perhaps, treated it as idle or superstitious, and so dismissed the suit. We thus see that *Salem* was not exclusive in her alarms; but that New-York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, each severally had their trials of witchcraft.

The city schoolmasters were always, *ex officio*, clerks, choristers, and visiters of the sick.

In the early times reed and straw roofs and wooden chimneys were so common in ordinary houses, that they had regularly appointed overseers to inspect them and guard them against fires.

They were accustomed to plant May-poles on New Year's and May-days. Sometimes they planted a May-pole, adorned with ragged stockings, before the door of a newly-wedded bridegroom.

The Dutch were remarkable in their choice of high sounding names for their vessels; an old record, describing a collection at one time in New-York, gives such names as the following, to wit: The Angel Gabriel, King David, Queen Esther, King Solomon, Arms of Renselaerwyck, Arms of Stuyvesant. The Great Christopher, the Crowned Sea Beers, the Spotted Cow, &c.

New-York was once distinguished for its manufacture and trade in *Indian wampum*, called *seawant*, deriving the material from Long Island, which place the Indians called *Sewanhacky*, importing the Land of Shells. They made the chief of it from periwinkles and quahaugs, (clams), and sometimes from the inside of oyster shells.* This when rounded into proper shape, became the proper money of the Indians; and with this, all who purposed to trade with them for furs, &c. provided themselves at New-York. A letter of governor Penn's is on record, wherein he speaks of his having sent there from Philadelphia to make "his purchases of *wampum*, at great prices." For numerous years, while coin was scarce or unnecessary, it was the custom to pay off the company's officers, and even the clergy too, in seawant or beavers. The current value of the seawant was six beads of the white, or three of the black, for an English penny. The value and importance once attached to this seemingly strange money in our consideration now, may be seen set forth, in 1641, in an ordinance of the city council sanctioned by governor Keift, saying, "that a great deal of bad seawant, nasty rough things, imported from other places," was in circulation, while "the good splendid seawant, usually called *Manhattan's seawant*, was out of sight or exported, which must cause *the ruin of the country!*" Therefore, it is added, that "all coarse seawant, well stringed, should pass at six for one stuyver only; but that the well polished, at

* Heckewelder says, "The universal name the Monseys had for New-York was *Laapawachking*, the place of stringing wampum beads. Those Indians saying, that once the Indians there were every where seen stringing beads and wampum which the whites gave them."

four for a stuyver." In 1657 they were publicly reduced from 6 to 8 for a stuyver, which is twopence. The wampum was used greatly by the Indians to decorate and ornament their persons. The women strung theirs, and hung them round their necks and sewed them on their moccasins and mantles.

The Dutch bore several names among the Indians. They called them *Swannakwak* or *Swanekens;* also *Assyreoni*, the cloth makers; *Charistooni*, the iron workers; Sankhicanni, the fire workers, in allusion to their use of matchlocks.

The lands on York Island, without the bounds of the town walls, along Wall street, appertained to the company, and were either used for public grazing grounds for the town cows, sheep, or swine, or else for the Governor's farms, under the names of Bouwerys. The Bouwery or farm sold to governor Stuyvesant in 1631, now so invaluable as building lots in the hands of his descendants, was originally purchased by him for 6,400 guilders (1,066*l.*), and having besides the land, "a dwelling-house, barn, reek-lands, six cows, two horses, and two young negroes."

On another farm the company erected a *wint molen* (wind-will) for the use of the town. Its site was by the Broadway, between the present Liberty and Courtland streets. The first having decayed, it was ordered, in 1662, that there be another on the same ground "outside of the city land-port (gate) on the company's farm."

There was once a *water mill* near the kolch, having its outlet of water to the North river. In order to obtain more water for the mill, the use of the vallies was granted to the miller; and as the race he had dug ad-

mitted the salt water occasionally into the kolch of fresh water, to its injury, he was required by law, in 1661, to hang a waste gate so as to bar the passage of the salt water.

We may close this article with some little notices and recollections of Dutch manners, as they appeared in their last remains when receding from the innovations of later times, to wit:

Capt. Graydon, who was a prisoner on Long Island in the war of independence, and was quartered at Flat Bush, speaks of his neighbours as a quiet inoffensive people; as too unaspiring and contented to have ever made a revolution from their own impulse. Their religion, like their other habits, were all plain and unostentatious: A silent grace before meat was their general family habit. The principal personage in every Dutch village was the "*domine*" or minister; and their manner of preaching was extremely colloquial and familiar. Their most frequent diet was clams, called clippers; and their unvaried supper was supon (mush); sometimes with milk, but more generally with buttermilk, blended with molasses. Their blacks, when they had them, were very free and familiar; sometimes sauntering about among the whites at meal time, with hat on head, and freely joining occasionally in conversation, as if they were one and all of the same household.

The hospitality and simple plainness of New-York city, down to the period of 1790 and 1800, was very peculiar. All felt and praised it. Nothing was too good, and no attention too engrossing *for a stranger*. It was a passport to every thing kind and generous. All who were introduced, invited him to their home and

board. As wealth and pride and numbers came in, it wore off more and more; till now it follows selfishness and reserve like other cities.

EARLY INLAND SETTLEMENTS.

"'Bold master spirits—where they touch'd they gain'd
Ascendance,—where they fix'd their foot, they reign'd."

For numerous years after the first settlement, Albany constituted the *ultima Thule*—the remotest point of interior civilization and improvement. Even as late as the war of independence, the present flourishing towns of Troy and Lansingburgh were scarcely named. Saratoga Springs and Ballstown, now so famed and fashionable, were in their native barrens.

Kinderhook, *Esopus*, and *Rhinebeck*, were among the earliest Dutch settlements along the banks of the Hudson. They are mentioned as early as 1651 by Joost Hartgers; and in 1656 by Vanderdonck. Esopus having been made a place of depot for our military stores, was assaulted in 1777 by the British general Vaughan, and taken and burnt.

Rhinebeck, as well as Strausburgh nigh it, were at an early period much occupied by Germans. The former place, in 1749, had its separate church and German pastor, the Rev. Mr. Harturig. The Germans were encouraged to settle in New-York state in the time of Queen Anne. Several got dissatisfied there and

moved into Pennsylvania, under some encouragements received from Gov. Sir W. Keith.

Some Scotch presbyterians went out early under the auspices of the Livingston family. At the first settlement of Albany, Livingston was secretary to the Dutch government, his family being at the same time, Brownists in Holland, from Scotland. I have seen an autograph letter of his mother to his address, written from Amsterdam when in her 80th year of age, and providing therein for his receiving out fifty of that people at a time, as his working men, to serve seven years a-piece for only food and raiment; all for the sake of freedom of conscience. The Livingston family settled near Hudson city; and one of the Livingstons (Robert) in later years (1752) took up 300,000 acres of forest land, extending from Esopus to the Delaware river, and proposing to rent them out forever on the condition of 50 bushels of wheat per 100 acres yearly.

Hudson city is but a modern affair, having been, till the year 1784, cultivated as a farm. It was then purchased by a few enterprizing persons of capital from the eastward, chiefly for the purpose of conducting there the whale fishery to the Pacific ocean. Such was its rapid progress, that in two years there were as many as 150 dwelling-houses erected. During the snowy winter of 1786, it was visited daily, it was said, by 1,200 sleds, bringing in and taking out articles of traffic. It is deemed at the head of tide water and ship navigation.

Newburgh existed before the revolution; and being a place beautifully situated, and not far from West Point, it was occasionally made a place of visit and re-

laxation by Gen. Washington, and other superior officers serving during that war at that post.

The earliest inland advance of settlement and civilization beyond Albany, was made at *Schenectada*, on the Mohawk river, 16 miles westward from that city. It derived its Indian name from its situation, as placed in a surrounding pine-barren country. Its chief support was derived from its fur trade, which it continued down to the period of the revolution. While it was yet a village and frontier post, it was made the scene of sudden and cruel destruction. On the 8th February, 1690, a small expedition of 200 French and a number of Canadian Indians, destined to assault Albany itself, arrived unapprehended, in the dead of the night, and entering the guard gates before the inhabitants could be aroused for defence, they forced and fired almost every house, butchering sixty persons of every age and sex, and bearing off several prisoners. The rest fled almost naked in a terrible storm and deep snow. Several of them lost their limbs through the rigour of the cold. It was an awful time; and long, long was the calamity remembered and related by the few who survived to keep alive the painful story. Those who most felt for the sufferers, and sighed most for revenge, had an opportunity, in the next year, to join in an expedition under the command of Major Peter Schuyler of Albany, "the Washington of his day." He conducted about 300 men, of whom the half were Mohawks and Schakook Indians; and at La Prairé they encountered 1,200 men under De Callieres, and in several conflicts slew 13 officers and 300 men, returning home in safety.

The *Mohawk river*, extending far westward through a narrow and long valley of fruitful soil, presented the

earliest allurement for agricultural purposes inland; and yet it was not until after the war of independence that it began to be sought after by white men. Filled as it now is with a prosperous and wealthy population; planted with numerous thriving villages, traced along its margin with the recent grand canal, and made the line of the grand tour to Niagara by numerous passengers from the opulent sea-board cities; yet it was not far beyond the period of that war, when it was still the beaver country of the aborigines or their wigwam locations; and the general region of country, their hunting ground, through which ranged bears, foxes, wolves, deer, and other game; the Indians themselves calling the lands *Couxsachraga*—the dismal wilderness.

Men are still alive while we write (in 1830), who in the time of the revolutionary war were in the defence of several of its military redoubts as frontier posts. Mr. Parrish, Indian agent, now resident at Canandaigua, was with a predatory party of Indians as a prisoner when they came into the neighbourhood of the present town of Herkimer, only 80 miles westward of Albany. Col. Fry of Conojohari, above 90 years of age, still alive, was commissary for these outposts in the "old French war." In his vicinity, at the town of Mohawk, but 36 miles west of Albany, at the junction of Schoharie creek with the river Mohawk, is the old Mohawk town; and their old church, still there, is the same built as a missionary station in the reign of Queen Anne, having fort Hunter to cover and defend it from predatory enemies. At this very place the Mohawks were actually dwelling as a nation until the year 1780.

Not far from the "Little Falls," now so romantic and

picturesque by reason of its rocky rapids and the expensive constructions for the canal along its margin, once stood the advance post of fort Herkimer. An old church near it, by lock No. 28, is still standing, which was used as a place of defence against an Indian assault, even in the time of the revolution. From the village of Herkimer up to Canada creek, a distance of 14 miles, are the very lands, embracing now the present fashionable resort and elegant place of entertainment, called "the Trenton Falls," which were once given by King Hendricks, our good ally, to Gen. Sir Wm. Johnson, who had taken his wife from the Indian race. King Hendricks himself lived at "Indian Castle" on the Mohawk river, 66 miles from Albany. As late as the revolution, a son of Sir Wm. Johnson, coming from Canada, made a hostile incursion with his Indians through all these lands, once his father's!

At the present flourishing city of *Utica*, only 95 miles west of Albany, once the site of Fort Scuyler, the settlement is so recent that in 1794 it had but two houses; and in 1785 the whole region of country had but two families, dwelling in log houses as advance pioneers; say Hugh White, after whom Whitestown is since named, and Moses Foot. From Utica to Canandaigua, they travelled for several years by "blazed paths;" that is, by chipping pieces out of trees, to show the traveller his way through boundless forests.

At Fort Stanwix, still seen in its elevated embankments, on the site where now the town of Rome is flourishing, at but a few miles beyond Utica, was once sustained a most deadly and protracted conflict with Indians, by the present aged Col. Marius Willet of New-York city.

Even until now the Oneida Indians themselves, a little beyond Utica, are settled in their own town, the "Oneida Castle;" dwelling in their own houses and cultivating their own lands; occasionally saluting the travelling tourists passing the place on the turnpike road, and sending out their racing children to hold up hands for a few pennies. The Onondagoes were settled only 20 miles westward of them; and it was only as late as the year 1779, that Gen. Clinton went out with a regiment from Albany against them, surprised their town, killing fourteen and bringing off 33 prisoners.

As we leave Utica we enter upon the "New-York military lands," containing 28 townships, severally ten miles square; "the proud and splendid monument of the gratitude of New-York to her revolutionary heroes; giving to each of her soldiers 550 acres of lands now so valuable." The very gift of such lands since the revolution, for services then performed, is itself the evidence of the recent cultivation of all those districts, now so essentially adding to the aggrandisement of this great state. Had the poor soldiers been individually benefitted by this generosity, and their descendants have found *an easy home* on the soil, the reflection would be much more grateful; but rapacious speculators, in most instances, were the beneficiaries!

Those military lands extended as far west as the Seneca lake, at which place begins the eastern boundary of that great purchase of the celebrated pioneer, *Oliver Phelps*, who in 1787 purchased the immense and unexplored wilds of the west, from the line of that lake to the west boundary of the state, comprising a mass of *six millions of acres*, for the inconsiderable sum,

as we now think it, of one million of dollars. To this *Cecrops*, this primary adventurer, the people of the west owe a lasting monument of gratitude and praise for his successful efforts in opening to them and their children their happy *Canaan.*

In the year 1788, O. Phelps first penetrated the wilderness, making his departure from Herkimer, the then most advanced settlement. Going thence 130 miles, through wilds and Indian hunting grounds to an Indian settlement, the present Canandaigua, a name then importing *chosen place*, where he held a treaty with the six nations, and purchasing from them their grant to the same as far as to the Genessee river. In the next year he opened his land office in that town, the first in America, for the sale of forest lands to settlers, and giving a model, since adopted, for selling all new lands in the United States by "townships and ranges." In 1790 Phelps sold out $1\frac{1}{4}$ millions of his grant to Robert Morris, the celebrated financier, for only 8*d. an acre;* and he again sold it to Sir W. Pulteney, whose land office is now opened at Geneva and Bath. In 1796 Robert Morris made a further purchase of about two thirds of the western part, a part of which he sold out to the "Holland Land Company," which company in 1801 opened their land office at Batavia. Canandaigua and Geneva, now such elegant towns, so delightfully placed by their several picturesque lakes, had all their first houses constructed of logs. But wild as the country was, it was all traversed in the summer of 1792–3, by the present Philip, king of France, and his two brothers, all on horseback, and making their rest for a short time at Canandaigua, at the house of Thomas Morris. Finally, such was the early history of a woody waste of coun-

try, so little valued then, and now so populous and productive. Through such regions original settlers made their way, with families, cattle, provisions, wagons, and carts; crossing waters without bridges; sleeping and eating in forests; and, finally, dwelling without shelter until they could build a log house and home. The obstacles and hazards and perils which beset a pioneer family going through a wilderness of hundreds of miles; their constructing of rafts and canoes at water courses; their swimming of horses, oxen, sheep, hogs, &c.; their occasional mishaps and losses; their hopes and fears; altogether might form an eventful tale of truth.

In the very midst of those great purchases of Phelps, and where his earliest efforts were concentered, is now the great and wonderfully prosperous town of Rochester, filled with wealth and luxury and elegance; having a population in 1827 of 8,000 persons, and *not one adult a native of the place!* for then the oldest person living, born in the place, was not seventeen years of age! The site was originally given to O. Phelps by the Indians as a mill seat, in allusion to which they called him Kauskonchicos, "waterfall." The very territory in which is was situated was but 40 years ago the hunting ground of such remnants of the six nations as survived the chastisement of Gen. Sullivan; and many a veteran warrior is still alive on the neighbouring reservations of Canawagus, Tonewanda, and Tuscorora, &c., to recount to their degenerate sons the exploits of his meridian vigour, when not a white man's axe had been lifted in all their forests! In the time of the revolution the six nations were in alliance with

Great Britain and in hostility with us; but in 1779 they were entirely defeated and their towns destroyed.

Can we contemplate such wonderful transitions in so short a term of years, and not exclaim with amazement, "behold, what a land of successful change we possess!" All these changes wrought within the lives of numerous patriarchal pioneers still alive, who live to *see* turnpikes and canals traversing the same lands where they for several years had only "blazed paths;" and comfortable or splendid mansions replacing, throughout all the country, the former log houses, with their wooden chimnies and their bark or straw roofs! The same lands have, in the hands of the sons of toil, been made to rise to incalculable value; and all this effected in a term so short, that the burnt stumps of the "cleared lands," peeping from among the luxuriant fields of grain, like *black bears*, are still every where visible along the public highways.

The youth who may be favoured to travel through all these western lands, on the rout of the "grand tour" to Niagara; who sees now good turnpike roads, first rate stages and extras, and splendid hotels, wherever he goes; must bear in mind that all these are the erections of only a few years: that it is only since the peace with Great Britain of 1816 that such accommodations for travellers were created; that the roads, in that desperate "border war" were then terribly rude and toilsome, filled in numerous places with "cord du roy" annoyances of logs. Niagara, now so splendid, was still "old fort Schlossa;" and the single house of entertainment was a log tavern, where travellers took every thing as rough as the rude scenery of the Niagara itself.

Let the youth contemplate too the splendid enterprise of the *Grand Canal*, stretching through a former woody waste of 360 miles; see on its bosom the numerous vehicles gliding through the surrounding forest foliage, bearing and scattering riches and plenty to every village and hamlet along its shores; then reflect on the active commerce now traversing every lake and inland sea, where was lately loneliness and solemn stillness:—the heart must exult in the contemplation, it must apostrophise our sires, and say,

"Ye who toil'd
Through successive years to build us up
A prosperous plan, behold at once
The wonder done! ——————
Here cities rise amid th' illumin'd waste,
O'er joyless deserts smiles the rural reign;—
Far distant flood to flood is *social join'd*,
And *navies* ride on seas that never foam'd
With daring keel before!"

THE INDIANS.

"——————A swarthy tribe—
Slipt from the secret hand of Providence,
They come we see not how, nor know we whence;
That seem'd created on the spot—though born,
In transatlantic climes, and thither brought,
By paths as covert as the birth of thought!"

THERE is in the fate of these unfortunate beings much to awaken our sympathy, and much to disturb the sobriety of our judgment; much in their characters to incite our involuntary admiration. What can be more

melancholy than their history? By a law of their nature, they seem destined to a slow but sure extinction. Every where at the approach of the white man they fade away. We hear the rustling of their footsteps, like that of the withered leaves of autumn; and themselves, like "the sear and yellow leaf," are gone forever!

Once the smoke of their wigwams, and the fires of their councils, rose in every valley from the ocean to the Mississippi and the lakes. The shouts of victory and the war dance rung through the mountains and the glades. The light arrows and the deadly tomahawk whistled through the forest; and the hunter's trace, and the dark emcampment, startled the wild beasts in their lairs. The warriors stood forth in their glory. The young listened to songs of other days. The mothers played with their infants, and gazed on the scene with warm hopes of the future. Braver men never lived; truer men never drew the bow. They had courage and fortitude, and sagacity and perseverance, beyond most of the human race. They shrunk from no dangers and they feared no hardships. They were inured, and capable of sustaining every peril, and surmounting every obstacle for sweet country and home. But with all this, inveterate destiny has unceasingly driven them hence!

> "Forc'd from the land that gave them birth,
> They dwindle from the face of earth!"

In our present notice of the Indians, we desire to go back to the period when first observed by Europeans; such as they were before debauched by their contact with the baser part of our white men. To this end we shall give the following description of them from the

personal observation and pen of the celebrated Wm. Penn; to wit:—

The natives I shall consider in their persons, language, manners, religion and government, with my sense of their original. For their persons, they are generally tall, straight, well-built, and of singular proportion; they tread strong and clever, and mostly walk with a lofty chin. Of complexion, black, but by design; as the gypsies in England. They grease themselves with bear's fat clarified; and, using no defence against sun or weather, their skins must needs be swarthy. Their eye is little and black, not unlike a straight-looked Jew. The thick lip, and flat nose, so frequent with the East Indians and blacks, are not common to them: many of them have fine Roman noses.

Their language is lofty, yet narrow; but, like the Hebrew, in signification full; like short-hand, in writing, one word serveth in the place of three, and the rest are supplied by the understanding of the hearer: imperfect in their tenses, wanting in their moods, participles, adverbs, conjunctions, interjections.

Of their customs and manners there is much to be said, I will begin with children. So soon as they are born, they wash them in water; and while very young, and in cold weather, they plunge them in the rivers to harden and embolden them. The children will go very young, at nine months commonly; if boys, they go a fishing till ripe for the woods, which is about fifteen; then they hunt, and after having given some proofs of their manhood, by a good return of skins, they may marry; else it is a shame to think of a wife. The girls stay with their mothers, and help to hoe the ground, plant corn, and carry burdens; and they do well to use them



Indian Council

to that young which they must do when they are old; for the wives are the true servants of the husbands; otherwise the men are very affectionate to them.

When the young women are fit for marriage, they wear something upon their heads for an advertisement, but so as their faces are hardly to be seen but when they please. The age they marry at, if women, is about thirteen and fourteen; if men, seventeen and eighteen; they are rarely elder.

Their houses are mats, or barks of trees, set on poles, in the fashion of an English barn; but out of the power of the winds, for they are hardly higher than a man; they lie on reeds or grass. In travel they lodge in the woods, about a great fire, with the mantle of duffils they wear by day wrapt about them, and a few boughs stuck round them.

Their diet is maize, or Indian corn, divers ways prepared; sometimes roasted in the ashes; sometimes beaten and boiled with water, which they call *homine;* they also make cakes, not unpleasant to eat. They have likewise several sorts of beans and pease that are good nourishment; and the woods and rivers are their larder.

If an European comes to see them, or calls for lodging at their house or wigwam, they give him the best place and first cut. If they come to visit us, they salute us with an *Itah;* which is as much as to say, *good be to you*, and set them down; which is mostly on the ground, close to their heels, their legs upright; it may be they speak not a word, but observe all passages. If you give them any thing to eat or drink, well: for they will not ask; and be it little or much, if it be with kind-

ness they are well pleased, else they go away sullen, but say nothing.

They are great concealers of their own resentments; brought to it, I believe, by the revenge that hath been practised among them.

But in liberality they excel; nothing is too good for their friend; give them a fine gun, coat, or other thing, it may pass twenty hands before it sticks: light of heart, strong affections, but soon spent. The most merry creatures that live, feast and dance perpetually; they never have much, nor want much: wealth circulateth like the blood, all parts partake; and though none shall want what another hath, yet exact observers of property. They care for little, because they want but little; and the reason is, a little contents them. In this they are sufficiently revenged on us: if they are ignorant of our pleasures, they are also free from our pains. We sweat and toil to live; their pleasure feeds them; I mean their hunting, fishing, and fowling; and this table is spread every where. They eat twice a-day, morning and evening; their seats and table are the ground.

In sickness impatient to be cured, and for it give any thing, especially for their children, to whom they are extremely natural: they drink at those times a *Tesan*, or decoction of some roots in spring-water; and if they eat any flesh, it must be of the female of any creature. If they die, they bury them with their apparel, be they man or woman, and the nearest of kin fling in something precious with them, as a token of their love: their mourning is blacking of their faces, which they continue for a year: they are choice of the graves of their dead for, lest they should be lost by time, and fall to

common use, they pick off the grass that grows upon them, and heap up the fallen earth with great care and exactness.

These poor people are under a dark night in things relating to religion, to be sure, the tradition of it; yet they believe in a God and immortality without the help of metaphysics; for they say, "There is a Great King that made them, who dwells in a glorious country to the southward of them; and that the souls of the good shall go thither, where they shall live again." Their worship consists of two parts, sacrifice and cantico: their sacrifice is their first fruits; the first and fattest buck they kill goeth to the fire, where he is all burnt, with a mournful ditty of him that performeth the ceremony, but with such marvellous fervency and labour of body, that he will even sweat to a foam. The other parts is their cantico, performed by round dances, sometimes words, sometimes songs, then shouts, two being in the middle that begin, and by singing and drumming on a board, direct the chorus: their postures in the dance are very antick, and differing, but all keep measure. This is done with equal earnestness and labour, but great appearance of joy. In the fall, when the corn cometh in, they begin to feast one another.

Their government is by kings, which they call *Sachama*, and those by succession, but always of the mother's side: for instance, the children of him that is now king will not succeed, but his brother by the mother, or the children of his sister, whose sons (and after them the children of her daughters) will reign; for no woman inherits. The reason they render for this way of descent is, that their issue may not be spurious.

Every king hath his council, and that consists of all

the old and wise men of his nation; which perhaps is two hundred people: nothing of moment is undertaken, be it war, peace, selling of land, or traffic, without advising with them; and, which is more, with the young men too. It is admirable to consider how powerful the kings are, and yet how they move by the breath of their people.

For their original, I am ready to believe them of the Jewish race; I mean, of the stock of the *ten tribes*, and that for the following reasons: first, they were to go to "a land not *planted* or *known*," which, to be sure, Asia and Africa were, if not Europe; and he that intended that extraordinary judgment upon them, might make the passage not uneasy to them, as it is not impossible in itself, from the easternmost parts of Asia to the westernmost of America. In the next place, I find them of like countenance, and their children of so lively resemblance, that a man would think himself in Dukes-place or Berry-street in London when he seeth them. But this is not all; they agree in *rites*; they reckon by *moons*: they offer their *first-fruits*; they have a kind of *feast* of *tabernacles*; they are said to lay their *altars* upon *twelve stones*; their *mourning* a *year*, *customs* of *women*, with many things that do not now occur.

The following observations concerning our Indians were made, in 1749, by Professor Kalm, then travelling among them; to wit:—

The hatchets of the Indians were made of stone, somewhat of the shape of a wedge. This was notched round the biggest end, and to this they affixed a split stick for a handle, bound round with a cord. These hatchets could not serve, however, to cut any thing like a tree; their means therefore of getting trees for canoes,

&c. was to put a great fire round the roots of a big tree to burn it off, and with a swab of rags on a pole to keep the tree constantly wet above until the fire below burnt it off. When the tree was down, they laid dry branches on the trunk and set fire to it, and kept swabbing that part of the tree which they did not want to burn ; thus the tree burnt a hollow in one place only ; when burnt enough, they chipt or scraped it smooth inside with their hatchets, or sharp flints, or sharp shells. Instead of knives, they used little sharp pieces of flints or quartz, or a piece of sharpened bone. At the end of their arrows they fastened narrow angulated pieces of stone ; these were commonly flints or quartz. Some made use of the claws of birds and beasts.

They had stone pestles, of about a foot long and five inches in thickness ; in these they pounded their maize. Many had only wooden pestles. The Indians were astonished beyond measure when they saw the first wind-mills to grind grain. They were, at first, of opinion that not the wind, but spirits within them gave them their momentum. They would come from a great distance, and set down for days near them, to wonder and admire at them !

The old tobacco pipes were made of clay or pot stone, or serpentine stone ; the tube thick and short. Some were made better, of a very fine red pot stone, and were seen chiefly with the Sachems. Some of the old Dutchmen at New-York preserved the tradition that the first Indians seen by the Europeans made use of copper for their tobacco pipes, got from the second river near Elizabethtown.

There was hardly any district of country where the Indians so fully enjoyed an abundant and happy home

as on *Long Island.* The tribes there were of the Lenni Lenape or Delaware race, bearing the designation of the *Matouwax* and *Paumunake.* They had there vast quantities of wild fowl and abundance of sea-fish; oysters, clams, crabs, muscles, &c. They had the art of catching fish by torch-light, called *wigwass* by them, in the way we call *bobbing.* It was their practice to set a fire of pine knots on a platform in the middle of their canoes, the light attracted numerous fish, which they struck with an eel spear. Their smoked faces and reddened eyes by the operation, often gave them a grotesque appearance. They would lay up great store of dried clams by stringing them, and sending them far into the country for distant tribes. Besides all this, they were great merchants of *wampum* or *seawant;* they procuring and forming from the sea shells all the Indian money used for ornament and traffic. To this day, the soil of the island shows frequent traces of the numerous shells once drawn out from the sea and scattered over its surface. The families while so engaged in fishing, had always near them their huts or wigwams by the water side, made close and warm with an entire covering of sea weed.

Respecting the frequent diet of the Indians in general, we may say, that besides their usual plantations of corn, pumpkins, squashes, &c. they often used wild roots and wild fruits; among the latter were chesnuts, shellbarks, walnuts, persimons, huckleberries, &c.: of the roots, they had *hopniss* (glycine apios), *katniss* (sagittaria sagittifolia), *tawho* (arum virginicum), *tawkee* (orantium aquaticum). These roots generally grew in low damp grounds, were a kind of potatoes to them, and were divested of their poisonous or injurious quality by roast-

ing them in the fire. They used to dry and keep their huckleberries like raisins. They would pound hickory and walnut nuts to a fine pulp, and mixing water with it formed a pleasant drink, not unlike milk in sight and taste. They made *yoekeg*, a mush, liked also by the whites, formed of pounded parched corn and cider mixed. *Suckatash* they made from corn and beans mixed together and boiled. Their pumpkins they preserved long, by cutting them into slices and drying them. On the rivers they had an art of forming pinfolds for taking fish; and when they took sturgeons, they cut them into strips and preserved them by drying. Fish hooks they sometimes made of fish bones and bird claws; and fish lines they formed from a species of wild grass, or from the sinews of animals. All these were indeed but instances of clumsy invention and rude fare, but their education and hearts were formed to it, and they loved it and were happy; having every where their table spread by nature to their entire wants and satisfaction. In those days they were hunters more for clothing and amusement than for necessary food.

The Indians whom we usually call Delawares, because first found about the regions of the Delaware river, never used that name among themselves; they called themselves *Lenni Lenape*, which means "*the original people*,"—*Lenni* meaning *original*,—whereby they expressed they were an *unmixed* race, who had never changed their character since the creation;—in effect they were primitive *sons of Adam*, and others were sons of the curse, as of Ham, or of the outcast Ishmael, &c.

They, as well as the *Mengwe* (called by us *Iroquois*), agreed in saying they came from westward of the

Mississippi—called by them *Namæsi Sipu*, or river of fish ; and that when they came over to the eastern side of that river, they there encountered, and finally drove off, all the former inhabitants, called the *Alligewi*—(and of course the *primitives* of all our country !) who, probably, such as survived, sought refuge in *Mexico*.

From these facts we may learn, that however unjustifiable, in a moral sense, may be the aggressions of our border men, yet on the rule of the *lex talionis* we may take refuge and say, we only drive off or dispossess *those* who were themselves *encroachers*, even as all *our* Indians, as above stated, were !

The Indians called the Quakers *Quekels*, and "the English," by inability of pronouncing it, they sounded *Yengees*—from whence probably, we have now our name of Yankees. In their own language they called the English *Saggenah*.

Men whose thoughts are engrossed in the affairs of the world, or in the immediate concerns of self-preservation, may be unmindful of others ; but youth, who are free from such cares, can indulge their natural propensity of looking abroad and into the state of others, by an attention to the actual state of the poor Indian. They have repeatedly heard that all the lands of our western interior were not long since the property of the aborigines ; and as they now witness their entire exclusion from all those regions, they naturally enquire where are they, and what has become of those who once welcomed to their wigwams and to their hospitality our pilgrim forefathers ? It was once their greatest gratification to be accounted the white man's friend and benefactor ; for truly they could say, "none ever entered the cabin

of Logan hungry, and he gave him no meat; or cold or naked, and he gave him no clothes."

As the race is receding from the civilization and encroachments of white men, and becoming more and more scarce among men, it will become still more the duty and proper kindness of the coming generation to cherish a regard and a veneration for the few scattered fragments of a once mighty people. Already the last feeble remnants are preparing to go into remote exile in the far distant west. We see them leaving reluctantly their long cherished homes, "few and faint, yet fearless still." They turn to take a last look at their deserted towns—a last glance at the graves of their fathers. They shed no tears; they utter no cries; they heave no groans. There is something in their hearts which surpasses speech; there is something in their looks, not of vengeance or submission, but of hard necessity, which stifles both; which chokes all utterance; which has no aim or method. It is courage absorbed in despair.

A mind fully alive to the facts which in the new countries of the west still environ him wherever he goes, can hardly ride along the highway, or traverse the fields and woods, without feeling the constant and welcome intrusion of thoughts like these, to wit: Here lately prowled the beasts of prey*; there crowded the deep interminable woodland shade; through that cripple browsed the deer; in that rude cluster of rocks and roots were sheltered the deadly rattlesnake. These

* As late as the year 1815 to '20, the state treasury expended 38,260 dollars for killing *wolves* in 37 of the western counties! Could any thing more strikingly exhibit its *recent* savage state, even where *now* "unwieldly wealth and cumbrous pomp repose!"

rich meadows were noxious swamps. On those sunside hills of golden grain crackled the growing maize of the tawny aborigines. Where we stand, perchance to pause and consider, rest the ashes of a chief or of his family; and where we have chosen our favourite sites for towns or habitations, may have been the selected spots on which were hutted the now departed lineage of many generations. On yon path-way, seen in the distant view, climbing the remote hills, may have been the very path tracked from time immemorial by the roving Indians themselves.

It is not possible for a considerate and feeling mind, even now, to stand upon the margin of such charming and picturesque *lakes* as the Skeneatteles, the Cayuga, and the Senecca, &c. without thinking how happily the Indians of primitive days were wont to pass their time in such enchanting regions; but they are all gone, all wasted like a pestilence. A few diminished tribes still linger about our remote borders; and others, more distant in the rude wilds, still gather a scanty subsistence from the diminished game. It would be to our honour and to their comfort and preservation, could we yet extend to them the blessings of civilization and religion. We owe it to ourselves and to them to yet redeem this wasting, injured, faded race.

"Crush'd race, so long condemned to moan
Scorn'd, riffled, spiritless and lone,
From heathen rites, from sorrow's maze,
Turn to *our temple gates* with praise!
Yes, come and bless th' usurping band
That rent away your father's land;
Forgive the wrong, suppress the blame,
And view your hope, your heaven, the same!"

STEAM-BOATS.

Against the winds, against the tide,
She breasts the wave with upright keel.

NEW-YORK is deservedly distinguished as being the first of our American cities which saw the successful use of steam-boat power upon its waters. Philadelphia had indeed beheld the efforts of Fitch's steam-boat as early as 1788; but as it was not brought into any effective operation under his management, the invention slumbered until it was brought out successfully in the year 1807, under the direction and genius of the distinguished Fulton. At that time he demonstrated the important fact, that the Hudson could be navigated by steam vessels; having shewn to the astonished citizens, his companions in a voyage to Albany, that his first boat made her trip in 30 hours; a time indeed nearly *three times* as long as now required, but triumphantly evidencing to the incredulous *a new era* in the creative powers of man.

Most amazing invention! from a cause now so obvious and familiar. It is only by applying the principle seen in every house, which lifts the lid of the tea kettle and "boils over," that machines have been devised which can pick up a pin or rend an oak; which combine the power of many giants with the plasticity that belongs to a lady's fair fingers; which can spin cotton and then weave it into cloth; and which, amidst a long list of other marvels, " engraves seals, forges anchors, and lifts

a ship of war like a bawble in the air;" presenting in fact to the imagination, the practicability of labour-saving inventions in endless variety; so that in time, man through its aid shall half exempt himself from "the curse," and preachers, through steam-press printing, shall find an auxiliary effecting more than half their work.

One whose genius has done so much for his country as Fulton's, deserves to be well known to her sons; we therefore take a mournful pleasure in repeating the facts as told to us by Judge Story, of the discouragements and incredulity against which it was at first the labour of Fulton to wend his way. I myself (says the Judge) have heard the illustrious inventor *relate*, in an animated and affecting manner, the history of his labours and discouragements:—"When (said he) I was building my first steam-boat at New-York, the project was viewed by the public either with indifference or with contempt as a visionary scheme. My friends indeed were civil, but they were shy. They listened with patience to my explanations, but with a settled cast of incredulity on their countenances. I felt the full force of the lamentation of the poet,—

> "Truths would you teach, to save a sinking land,
> *All shun, none aid you, and few understand.*"

As I had occasion to pass daily to and from the building yard while my boat was in progress, I have often loitered unknown near the idle groups of strangers gathering in little circles, and heard various inquiries as to the object of this new vehicle. The language was uniformly that of scorn, sneer, or ridicule. The loud laugh rose at my expense, the dry jest, the wise calculation of losses and expenditures; the dull but endless repetition

of the Fulton folly. Never did a single encouraging remark, a bright hope, or a warm wish, cross my path. Silence itself was but politeness veiling its doubts or hiding its reproaches. At length the day arrived when the experiment was to be got into operation. *To me it was a most trying and interesting occasion.* I invited many friends to go on board to witness the first successful trip. Many of them did me the favour to attend as a matter of personal respect; but it was manifest they did it with reluctance, fearing to be partners of my mortification and not of my triumph. I was well aware that in my case there were many reasons to doubt of my own success. The machinery (like Fitch's before him) was new and ill made; and many parts of it were constructed by mechanics unacquainted with such work, and unexpected difficulties might reasonably be presumed to present themselves from other causes. The moment arrived in which the word was to be given for the vessel to move. My friends were in groups on the deck. There was anxiety mixed with fear among them. They were silent, sad, and weary. I read in their looks nothing but disaster, and almost repented of my efforts. The signal was given, and the boat moved on a short distance and then stopped, and became immovable. To the silence of the preceding moment now succeeded murmurs of discontent, and agitations, and whispers, and shrugs. I could hear distinctly repeated, "I told you it was so; it is a foolish scheme; I wish we were well out of it." I elevated myself upon a platform and addressed the assembly. I stated that I knew not what was the matter; but if they would be quiet, and indulge me for half an hour, I would either go on or abandon the voyage for that time. This short respite

was conceded without objection. I went below and examined the machinery, and discovered that the cause was a slight maladjustment of some of the work. In a short period it was obviated. The boat was again put in motion. She continued to move on. All were still incredulous. None seemed willing to trust the evidence of their own senses. We left the fair city of New-York; we passed through the romantic and ever-varying scenery of the Highlands; we descried the clustering houses of Albany; we reached its shores; and then, even then, when all seemed achieved, I was the victim of disappointment. Imagination superseded the influence of fact. It was then doubted if it could be done again, or if done, it was doubted if it could be made of any great value." Such is the graphic history of the first experiment; a memorable and momentous epoch. How affecting and exciting to the inventor in that anxious and perilous moment of trial. We regret to add that he did not live to enjoy the full glory and reward of his invention. He saw his rights both as to merit and reward disputed; but now the whole world awards the meed of praise to this noblest benefactor of the human race. From his struggles against impediments, and his final triumph over incredulity and discouragement, let other great geniuses take lasting courage, and make *perseverance to the end* their cheering and sustaining motto.



Inland Settlers and Pioneers.

Lith. Russo & Browne.

INLAND SETTLERS AND PIONEERS.

"Thus the pavilioned waste of oak
Has bow'd beneath the woodman's stroke."

THE pioneers, the primitive settlers of the inland wilds, are in general a race of men possessing little attention or renown, and yet deserving our liveliest respect and gratitude. In this new land they have uniformly been the *avant-couriers* of all our enrichment and prosperity. They have gone forward into the depths of the forest, and by subduing and cultivating the soil have made it to bring forth abundantly. By sending the results of their harvests back to the parent cities, they have added to our wealth and commerce.

When we owe so much, on the score of gratitude, to the patient hardihood of *first settlers*, we should take some pains to preserve some memorial of their adventures and exposures. We have listened to some of their oral relations with lively interest and emotion; and as they have no chronicler to preserve their little history, we shall here endeavour to preserve some traits.

We see two or three families, consisting severally of husbands, wives, and children, associating, in the year 1790, in one of the towns of New England, to form a little community to go into the wilds of the west. They had heard of fruitful soils and cheap; and having growing and sturdy working boys and girls about them, they resolve to go as far as the Indian town of Canandaigua;

or, if not there suited, to go still further, to the country of the Genessee river. They sell out their little immovable property for the sake of the cash; then gather about them wagons, carts, farming utensils; reserve some of their roughest furniture and of least weight of carriage; lay in their store of salted and smoked meats; procure baked biscuits; get Indian meal for "journey cakes;" gather around a whole stock of cows, pigs, sheep, and poultry, not forgetting their house dog and tabby cat. We skip over the intermediate space of travel, wherein they could find huts and cottages at which to stop along their route, to as far as the present Utica, then the place of Fort Schuyler; from this point the united pioneers enter into the forest. The provisions, furniture, and smallest children are placed in the wagons and set onward. The men, women, and boys and girls follow near by, driving in their wake their bull and cows, pigs and sheep. Hung to the wagons, severally, were the poultry coops, containing ducks, geese, and fowls, the intended parent stock of the future poultry yard.

In their onward march no road marks the direction of their way, but guided by the "blazing of the trees," (surveyor's marks cut on the sides of trees with a hatchet,) or, when at fault, by their pocket compass, they continue to go on their way westward. By and bye they halt to rest, and to feed their cattle and themselves. Their table, once an ironing board, is set upon four upright stakes drove into the ground. Their seats are formed by two benches. Biscuits and cold meat form their food. At table, and in their mutual intercourse, they all aim to cheer and encourage each other with hopes and designs of the future. Soon all are again set onward; water-courses and impediments in the way

occasionally occur. Then the men and boys are the chief labourers; and to manage their cattle and get them over sloughs, &c. is their chief difficulty. By and bye they approach the Oneida settlement of Indians, of which they have some forethought by seeing a straggling hunter or two, and after a while hearing the shouts and noisy rejoicings of the tribe. At the sound fears and apprehensions steal upon the soul. The younger members of the family get closer to their parents; and the parents themselves are not insensible to the fact, that they have no other security for their safety than the general report of peace and amity. They enter their settlement, are surrounded, mutual wonder exists, civilities are interchanged, and the settlers, not willing to abide for a night among them, go beyond them and encamp for the first night. What a new epoch for a family accustomed to civilization to sit down in the gloom of the forest! They again prepare to eat and to feed their cattle. The fire is made for tea, and for fresh journey cake baked before the fire. The bedding and beds are prepared in the wagons. Watches are set to take turns through the night, to preserve the cattle from straying and the sheep from the prowling wolf. When all is prepared the whole company surround their homely table, eat heartily and talk cheerily. Some sing songs, some hymns; several recount the incidents of the day; all remember home, and talk of left friends and kindred; and some surmise the adventures before them. They all retire to rest in due time, save the watch and the dogs. The fatigues of the day make many sleep soundly; and only now and then a wakeful ear hears the bark of the fox, the distant growl of the wolf, or the shriek of the owl. Soon as the ruddy morn peeps out from the orient

east, the company is again all in action, preparing for their morning meal and onward journey. In two days more of similar journey they reach the Indian settlement of the Onondagas—Indians which they feared more than the former only because they were still more in their power, by being still more remote from country and friends. They still, however, received civility and kindness in their rude but well-meant attentions. They brought them some of their game, and this, with successful shooting of their own among the partridges and pheasants seen in their rout, gave them the means of a grand repast of sylvan food for their supper. They again spent their night much after the manner before-mentioned, and not far from the ranges of those Indians. In a few days they all reach the Indian village of Canandaigua, at which place the great purchaser, Phelps, had preceded them for the sale of his land. In the intermediate space they had had some new adventures; they had seen and shot several wild turkies, and one or two of the party had surprized some deer, and succeeded to kill a couple. These were so many trophies of their woodman character, and gave new life and feelings to the whole. They had too been obliged to make many devious wanderings in search of their way. The rout became dubious, and it was only after going off at sundry diverging points that they could feel any assurance that they were near the tract they should take. To add to these embarrassments they had encountered wider and deeper water-courses; such as they could not venture to traverse without some means to float over some of their articles. Here therefore they were obliged to fell trees and construct rafts of timber on which to convey what was needed to the opposite bank. Once in a while they

came across a solitary hunter. Savage as he was, it was a cheering sight, because he was human. Man loves man of every form when found in solitude. Occasionally they came across tokens of encampment, known by the signs of former fires, the tramp of cattle, and the fragments of their feast. The very sight of such remains was cheering, and set all the company in good humour and fine spirits. But when once in a long while they could see in the distance the curling smoke of a log hut and a little clearing, their rejoiced spirits triumphed aloud. It hardly mattered who they were, the sight of white faces were so welcome; but if they had also gentleness and goodness to recommend them, mutual hospitalities were unbounded.

At Canandaigua one of the families made arrangements to remain and settle, but the other two families, allured to still stronger hopes by more distant settlement, determined to keep on to the Genessee river. To this they were more especially inclined by the descriptions and the promised guidance of some friendly Seneccas. Taking leave of their former companions and the few other white settlers found there, they once more put forward in their former method of march, and, under many renewed difficulties of going up to the head of streams, or having to pass them by slight bridges or rafts, they at length arrived at the long sought *lonely home*, placed near the banks of the now beautiful Genessee. Here began a new era of toil, enterprize, and skill. Their business now was to fell trees and cut their logs for their future dwelling, and to locate it near a spring. At the same time the boughs, in their leaf, were set up pointing like the pitch of a roof to serve as a temporary shed and shelter for sundry articles taken out of the

wagons. The log house of one story being constructed, and placed north and south as their domestic sun-dial, and covered over with a stave roof; having a wide chimney made of stones and clay, into which a log of ten feet length could be rolled for fuel; the doors were left purposely so wide, that the horse could draw in the log by a chain, and leaving his load, pass out at the opposite side. Such a house was destined in time to be a kitchen, when they could construct a better one adjoining. In the mean time one great room below, with a *ground* floor, served "for parlour, kitchen and hall;" and the loft above made one general chamber of rest, with here and there a coverlid partition pendant between the different sexes. Now the family being housed, "the clearing," of vital importance to their future support and nourishment, was set upon. Along the outer margin the trees were cut down and rolled inward towards the centre, so as to break the line of communication with the adjacent woods. Then the whole was set into one general conflagration, so as to kill the trees and provide an opening for the rays of the sun upon the land. Smoke and the perils of fire were endured as well as they could. When sufficiently burnt out, the plough and the hoe were set into the soil to prepare for planting corn and other needful grain. The women too had their concern to make out their little garden spot, where they might set in their garden seed: such as sallad, beans, peas, onions, cabbages, &c., and their intended nursery of apple seeds, and peach, plum and cherry stones; for in such a state every thing is to begin. As time advanced, all these primary arrangements were enlarged, and comforts were increased. The men and boys laboured all day, and at night the girls spun and the boys knit. Their evening

hours were talked down pleasantly with fond remembrances of former homes, and fond hopes of future prosperity. When Sabbath came, they all united in hearing the perusal of the family Bible, or in reading family sermons; and the hymn book was used for its remembered song of Zion. Now they had no church, no merry chime of bells, no pastoral guardian. They felt this the more keenly because of its absence. Three families then constituted the total of all the settlers; but these were friendly, and mutually helpful when urgent occasion required. The Indians would come occasionally to look on, saluting always with a friendly "*Itah*," or good be to you. Often deer were started, sometimes shot. Bears were sometimes seen and hunted off. Smaller game were always at hand to shoot, and in the stream the finest fish abounded.

By and bye new settlers came along in families one by one. They were always warmly welcomed and diligently assisted to make their log structures. In the spring and fall was a period of harvest, of honied sweet from the juice of the maple tree. The sugar camp as it was called, made an occasion of cheerful gathering, especially among the children, who loved to partake from the sugar pans. When the winter came, the fall of snow was deep and lasting; abiding all the winter several feet deep, and requiring occasionally the use of snow shoes. To make paths and roads in cases of deep snow, they had to arrange their cattle and drive them in lines of two a-breast to the places required. They had then no mills to grind their grain, and made use of a wooden mortar, formed from a hollowed log set on end, to which they applied a pestal attached to a sweep like the pole of a well. In giving a domestic picture of

such a frontier family, we must not forget to show how the children were sometimes employed. They had no school, but they were not idle; they had snares and traps about in the woods, where they often succeeded to snare game. Partridges and rabbits they so caught in abundance. Raspberries, blackberries, gooseberries, and huckleberries, grew in rich abundance, and afforded them delightful repasts. They had squirrels and rabbits which they had tamed. The cat, too, was diligent, and often brought in her captures, calling by her known cry the children around, and laying down ground mice, squirrels, &c. At one time the boys found a brood of young raccoons, which, being brought home, were all domesticated by good-natured puss. By and bye their joy was made complete by the arrival of an old soldier escaped from Indian captivity, who gladly made his home among them, and used to amuse their evenings by telling the family circle of his many hair breadth 'scapes. He loved a story and loved a song; and with these sweetly he beguiled the hours. Some of his tales of suffering captives among the Indians were full of pathos and interest, filling the heart and extorting a tear.

At length population and improvement encreased. Pleasant villages and cottage clusters were seen in the midst of the wilderness, and houses for the worship of God, and schools for the instruction of children, rose where, not long before, the wild beast had his range or his lair. What had begun as little and lonely dwellings, "few and far between," came in time to be the nucleus around which gathered other settlers and formed a town. At this early period of adventure came out the original settlers,—the two Wadsworths; men who,

from the rough beginnings above described, have come to possess an estate now worth two millions of dollars, having a farm of meadow and upland of 1700 acres, a flock of 8,000 sheep, 600 horned cattle, and all other things in great abundance. What a country and what a change in a few short years!*

How changed the scene, since here the savage trod
To set his otter-trap, or take wild honey,
Where now so many turn the sod,
Or farmers change their fields for money.
How short the time, and how the scenes have shifted,
Since Wadsworth explored this wild land,
And mid primeval woods, prophetic scann'd
This rare position and its destiny.

* As late as the years 1810–11, there was only a weekly mail between Canandaigua and Genessee river; carried on horseback, and part of the time *by a woman!* 'Twas only in 1815 that the settlers about Rochester made up a private fund for a weekly mail to Lewiston; and it was but a year before, that the road itself (along "the ridge") was opened by a grant of the legislature of $5,000; before that it was impassable.



OLDEN TIME:

RESEARCHES AND REMINISCENCES

CONCERNING

New-York City.

THE object of these researches has been to present a picture of the city, and of the manners and customs of its inhabitants, as they stood in days *lang-syne*; when the city was yet small, and the habits of the people simple, plain, and frugal. In fulfilling this design we have endeavoured so to distribute the topics under various heads, as would best instruct our youth in the facts to which we solicit their attention. In some cases we give the names of sundry aged persons, from whom we derived our information; intending thereby to convince the reader, that the facts related have been sufficiently supported by such ancient New-York citizens as once knew them to be true.

INTRODUCTORY AND GENERAL VIEWS OF THE CITY,

As scann'd with bird-eye view.

The city "stretching street on street," as in her *present* grandeur and magnitude, enrols a total population of 180,000 souls; a collection of about 30,000 houses; a tonnage of 300,400 tons—this is exclusive of 10,500 tons of steam-boats;—and an assessed value of property (including 37 millions of personal estate) of 114 millions of dollars; her lighted and paved streets, lined with houses, extend to Thirteenth street, on the North River side, to the dry dock on the East River side, and to Thirteenth street on the Broadway and Bowery streets. All its modern streets are straight and wide, graduated to easy and gradual ascents or descents; and where formerly very narrow lanes existed, or crowded edifices occurred, they have either cut off the encroaching fronts of houses, as in William street and Maiden lane, or cut through solid masses of houses, as in opening Beekman and Fulton streets. They have widened the bounds of the city, both on the North and East rivers, by building up whole streets of houses, at and beyond Greenwich street on the western side; and at and from Pearl street on the eastern river. The value and magnitude of these improvements, all redeemed from the former rivers once there, are really astonishing to the beholder.

There is every indication to evince the fact, that New-York was in primitive days the "city of hills;"

such verdant hills, of successive undulation, as the general state of the whole country-part of the island now presents. Thus, at the extreme south end of the Broadway, where the ancient fort formerly stood, was an elevated mount, quite as elevated as the general level of that street is now before Trinity Church, and thence regularly declining from along that street to *the beach* on the North River. The hills were sometimes *precipitous*, as from Beekman's and Peck's Hills, in the neighbourhoods of Pearl street and Beekman and Ferry streets, and from the middle Dutch Church in Nassau street down to Maiden lane; and sometimes gradually sloping, as on either hills along the line of the water, coursing along the region of Maiden lane. Between many of the hills flowed in several invasions of water: such as "*the canal*," so called to gratify Dutch recollections, which was an inroad of river water up Broad street;—and up Maiden lane, flowed another inroad, through Smith's marsh or valley; a little beyond Peck's Slip, existed a low water-course, which in high tide water ran quite up *in union* with the Collect, (Kolck) and thence joining with Lispenard's swamp on North River side, produced a union of waters quite across the former city: thus converting it occasionally into an island, and showing a reason for the present lowness of the line of Pearl street as it traverses Chatham street. There they once had to use boats occasionally, to cross the foot passengers passing over from either side of the *high* rising ground ranging on both sides of Pearl street, as that street inclines *across* the city till it runs out upon Broadway, *vis a vis*, the hospital.

These details of mere streets are necessarily dull, and indeed not susceptible of any further interest than

The City of New Orange, 1673, as then sketched.



A. the Fort & Church, – B. Governor's house & the dock – C. the Canal in Broad St. – D. Bondeel or Battery – E. Stadt-huys – F Gate & Wall on Wall St. –

as they may serve as *metes* and *bounds* within which to lay the foundation of more agreeable and imaginative topics, to grow upon the reader as the subject advances.

PRIMITIVE NEW-YORK.

We backward look to scenes no longer there.

A PERSPECTIVE map of New-York, in 1673, as preserved in Du Simitiere's Historical Collection, in the Philadelphia Library, and latterly illustrated by J. W. Moulton, Esq., from his researches among the Dutch records, gives us a pretty accurate conception of the outline features of the city at the time when it became, by the peace of 1674, permanently under British dominion, and thence gradually to wear off its former exclusive *Knickerbocker* character.

At that time almost all the houses presented their *gable ends* to the street; and all the most important public buildings, such as "Stuyvesant Huys," on the water edge, at present Moore and Front streets; and the "Stadt-huys," or City Hall on Pearl street, at the head of Coentie's Slip, were then set on the fore-ground to be the more readily seen from the river. The chief part of the town of that day lay along the East River (called *Salt River* in early days), and descending from the high ridge of ground along the line of the Broadway. A great artificial dock for vessels lay between "Stuyvesant Huys," above referred to, and the bridge over the *canal* at its debouche on the present Broad

street. Three "Half Moon Forts," called "*Rondeels*," lay at equi-distances for the defence of the place; the first at Coentie's Slip and the third at the "Water Gate," or outer bounds of the then city, being the foot of the present *Wall street*, so called from its being then shut in there by a line of palisades along the said street, quite over to the junction of Grace and Lumber street, where the North River limits then terminated in a redoubt.

One of the original Philadelphians, Wm. Bradford, the first printer of Philadelphia, has left us a lively picture of the city of New-York as it stood about the year 1729, being his publication from an original survey by James Lyne. The one which I have seen (a great *rarity* considered) at the city commissioner's, should be, I should think, but a *reduced* copy, inasmuch as the Mss. "Annals of Philadelphia," show that in the year 1721, the son of the above Wm. Bradford, (named *Andrew*) advertises in his "Mercury" the sale of a "curious prospect of New-York, on *four* sheets of paper, *royal* size." What an article for an antiquary!

By the map aforesaid, it is shown in 1729, that there was no street beyond the Broadway, westward, but that the lots on the western side of that street descended severally to the beach; that from Courtlandt street, northward, all the ground west of Broadway was occupied by trees and tillage, and called the "King's Farm." The eastern side of the city was all bounded by Water street, having houses only on the land side, and its northern limits terminating with Beekman street. At the foot or debouche of Broad street were two great docks, called West and East Dock, as they lay on either side of said Broad street;—they occupied the

ground *now built upon* from Water street, nearly out to South street, and from the east side of Moore street nearly up to Coentie's Slip. Between present Moore street and Whitehall street lay the "Ship Yards," and all along where now tower stately trees in the Battery promenade, lay numerous rocks forming "the Ledge," having the river close up to the line of the present State street fronting the battery. How wonderful then is the modern extension of this city, by carrying out whole streets and numerous buildings to places before submersed *in water!*—thus practising, with signal benefit, the renowned predilections and ingenuity of their transatlantic ancestors!

ANCIENT MEMORIALS.

"I'll note 'em in my book of memory."

The Mss. documents and recorded facts of New-York city and colonial history, are, it is said, very voluminous and complete. Mr. Moulton's history declares there are one hundred volumes of folio, of almost unexplored Mss. among the records of state. What abundant material for research must these afford whenever the proper spirit for their investigation is awakened!

I am myself aware that the city itself is rich in "hoar antiquity," for I have ascertained that numerous books of records are of ready access to such congenial minds as can give their affections to the times by-gone. Many of them are of the old Dutch dynasty, and have had no

translator. For instance, there are in the county clerk's office a book of records of 1656; another of 1657; orders of the burgomasters in 1658; another of their resolutions and orders from 1661 to 1664. There are also some books of deeds, &c. While I write these facts, I do it with the hope that I am addressing myself to some youthful mind who will feel the inspiration of the subject, and resolve to become a student of Dutch, and at some future day to bring out, through his researches, the hidden history of his Dutch forefathers.

It would be "a work of supererogation" to aim at the general translation of such a mass of papers; but it is really surprising that hitherto no "ardent spirit," greedy of "antiquarian lore," should have been inspired to make his gleanings from them. A judicious mind, seeking only the strange or the amusing of the "olden time," might with a ready facility extract their honey only, and leave the cumbrous comb behind. I myself have made the experiment. I found in the office of the common council the entire city records, *in English*, from the year 1675 downwards to the present day. From the first volume, embracing a period of sixteen years, (to 1691,) I was permitted to make the following summary extracts. These, while they furnish in some instances appropriate introduction to sundry topics intended in these pages, will also show that but a very small portion of the whole mass is desirable for the entertainment of modern eyes, and therefore not to be sought after; it is even satisfying and useful to know how little need be known.

I give the following from "the Minutes," consecutively as they occurred; to wit:

October, 1675; the canoes of the Indians, where-

soever found, are to be collected to the north side of Long Island, as a better security to the inhabitants in case of their having any purpose to aid the Canadian enemies. This shows the Indian dread of that day. At the same time it is ordered that all Indians near New-York should make their coming winter-quarters at Hell Gate, so as to be ready for controul or inspection.

It is ordered, that because of "the abuse in their oyle caske" on the east end of Long Island, there shall be a "public tapper of oyle" in each towne where the whaling design is followed. Thus evincing the former business of whalers in those parts.

Governor Andros orders, that by reason of the change of government, the inhabitants shall take an oath of allegiance to their new sovereign. There are only thirty-six recorded names who conform!

The mayor, on the approach of new year's day, commands the disuse of firing guns.

The city gates are ordered to be closed every night at 9 o'clock, and to be opened at day-light. The citizens in general are to serve their turns as watchmen, or to be fined. No cursing or swearing shall be used by them. They are carefully to go frequently towards "the bridge for greater safety." [Meaning, I take it, the bridge at the great dock at the end of Broad street.] Every citizen, for the purpose of guard, is always to keep in his house a good fire-lock, and at least six rounds of ball.

The rates of tavern fare are thus decreed and ordered:—for lodging 3*d.*; for meals 8*d.*; brandy per gill 6*d.*; French wines, a quart, 1*s.* 3*d.*; syder, a quart, 4*d.*; double beere, a quart, 3*d.*; and *mum*, a quart, 6*d.*

The mayor proposes that they who own convenient

land to build upon, if they do not speedily build thereon, it shall be valued and sold to those who will. This being proposed to the governor, who as military chief, always had a control in the semi-militaire city, the same was afterwards adopted. How valueless must have been lots then, since so estimable, which could thus "go a begging" in 1675!

In 1676 all the inhabitants living in the streete called the Here Graft, (the same called Gentlemen's Canal once, and now Broad street), shall be required to fill up the graft, ditch, or common shore, and level the same.

"Tanners' pits" are declared to be a nuisance within the city, and therefore it is ordered they shall only exercise their functions as tanners *without* the towne. This ordinance will account for the numerous tanneries once remembered in Beekman's swamp, now again driven thence by encroaching population; but the premises still retained as curriers and leather dealers, making the whole of that former region still a proper leather towne.

It is ordered, for the sake of a better security of a sufficiency of bread, that no grain be allowed to be distilled. How many wretched families of the present day could now profit by such a restraint, who abound in whiskey and lack bread!

It is ordered that innkeepers be fined, from whose houses Indians may come out drunk; and if it be not ascertained by whom, the whole streete shall be fined for the non-detection. A sure means, this, to make every man "his neighbour's keeper."

A fine of twenty guilders is imposed on all Sabbath breakers. The knowledge of such a fact then may afford a gratification to several modern associations.

In 1676 is given the names of all of the then property holders, amounting to only 300 names, and assessed at 1½ dollar a pound on £99,695. This is a curious article in itself, if considered in relation to family names or relative wealth. What changes since "their families were young." The English names of John Robinson, John Robson, Edward Griffith, James Loyde, and Geo. Heathcott, appear pre-eminently rich among their co-temporaries.

In 1676 it is ordered, that for better security of seasonable supplies, all country people bringing supplies to market, shall be exempt from any arrest for debt. The market house and plains (the present "bowling green" site) afore the fort shall be used for the city sales.

It is ordered that all slaughter-houses be removed thenceforth *without* the city, "over the water, without the gate, at the Smith's Fly, near the Half Moone." Thus denoting "the water gate" near the present Tontine on Wall-street, beyond which was an invasion of water, near the former "Vly market" on Maiden lane.

Public wells, fire ladders, hooks, and buckets are ordered, and their places designated for the use of the city. Thus evincing the infant cradling of the present robust and vigorous fire companies. The public wells were located in the middle of such streets as Broadway, Pearl street, &c. and were committed to the surveillance of committees of inhabitants in their neighbourhoods, and half of their expense assessed on the owners of property nearest them. Will the discovery of their remains, in some future day, excite the surprise and speculation of uninformed moderns?

A "mill house" is taxed in "Mill street lane." Thus

indicating the fact of a water-course and mill seat (probably the bark mill of Ten Eycke) at the head of what is now called "Mill street." Thus verifying what I once heard from the Phillips family, that in early times, when the Jews first held their worship there, (their synagogue was built there a century ago) they had a living spring, two houses above their present lots, in which they were accustomed to perform their ablutions and cleansings according to the rites of their religion.

In 1776 all horses at range are ordered to be branded and enrolled; and two stud horses are "to be kept in commons upon this island."

Tar for the use of vessels, is to be boiled only against "the wall of the Half Moon," meaning the Battery wall.

All the carmen of the city, to the number of twenty, are ordered to be enrolled, and to draw for 6*d.* an ordinary load, and to remove weekly from the city the dirt of the streets at 3*d.* a load. The dustmen showed much spunk upon the occasion, and combined to refuse full compliance. They proposed some modifications; but the spirit of "the Scout, Burgomasters, and Schepens," was alive and vigorous in the city rulers, and they forthwith dismayed the whole body of carmen, by divesting all of their licence who should not forthwith appear as usual at the public dock, pay a small fine and make their submission. Only two so succombed, and a new race of carmen arose. Those carmen were to be trusty men, worthy to be charged with goods of value from the shipping, &c.; wherefore all Indian and negro slaves were excluded.

An act is passed concerning the revels of "Indian and negro slaves" at inns. At the mention of Indian *slaves* the generous mind revolts. What! the virtual

masters of the soil to become "hewers of wood and drawers of water" to their cherished guests? Sad lot!

> "Forc'd from the land that gave them birth,
> They dwindle from the face of earth."

In 1683 twelve pence a ton is assessed on every vessel for their use of the city dock, "as usually given," and for "the use of the bridge;" understood by me to have been as a *connecting* appendage to the same dock.

Luke Lancton, in 1683, is made "collector of customs" at the custom house near the bridge, and none shall unload "but at the bridge." The house called "Stuyvesant Huys," at the north-west corner of present Front and Moore streets was in ancient days called "the custom house."

The Indians are allowed to sell fire wood, then called "stick wood," and to vend "gutters for houses;" by which I suppose was meant long strips of bark, so curved at the sides as to lead off water: else it meant for the roof of sheds, even as we now see dwelling-houses roofed along the road side to Niagara.

An act of reward, of the year 1683, is promulged for those who destroy wolves.

A record of 1683, speaking of the former Dutch dynasty, says the mayor's court was used to be held in the City Hall, where they, the mayor and aldermen, determined "without appeal." It alleges also, that "they had their own clerk, and kept the records of the city distinctly." Thus giving us the desirable fact, that "records" in amplitude, have once existed of all the olden days of Lang Syne! They spell the name of the island "Manhatans."

Then none might exercise a trade or calling unless as an admitted "freeman." Then they might say with the centurion, "with a great price bought I that privilege."

If a freeman, to use "handy craft," they paid 3*l.* 12*s.*, and for "being made free," they paid severally 1*l.* 4*s.* None could then trade up the Hudson river unless a freeman, who had had at least three years' residence; and if any one by any cause remained abroad beyond twelve months, he lost his franchise, unless indeed he "kept candle" and paid "Scott and Lott" terms to imply his residence was occupied by some of his family. Have we moderns bettered the cautious policy of our ancestors in opening our arms to every "new comer?" We tariff *goods*, but put no restraint on men, even if competitors. Do any think of this?

In 1683 it was decreed that all flour should be bolted, packed, and inspected in New-York city. This was necessary then for the reputation of the port in its foreign shipments. Besides, the practice of bolting as now done at mills, by water power, was unknown. In primitive days the "bolting business" was a great concern by horse power, both in New-York and Philadelphia.

The governor and his council grant to the city the dock and bridge, provided it be well kept and cleaned; if not, it shall forfeit it: but no duty shall be paid upon the bridge as "bridge money."

In 1683 the city bounds and wards are prescribed along certain named streets. The third or east ward was bounded "along the wall," and "againe with all the houses in the Smith Fly, and without the gate on the south side of the fresh water." Meaning in the above,

"the wall" of palisades along Wall street; and by the "fresh water," the Kolch or Collect fresh water.

In 1683 a committee, which had been appointed to collect ancient records respecting the city privileges of former times, made their report thereon, and therein name the "City Hall and yards," "Market house" and "Ferry house." It says, Wm. Merritt had offered "for the ferry to Long Island" the sum of 20*l.* per annum for 20 years; to erect sheds, to keep two boats for cattle and horses, and also two boats for passengers. The ferriage for the former to be 6*d.* a-head, and for the latter 1*d.* Think of this ye present four cent "*labour-saving*" steamboats. Ye *shun* the Dutchman's *penny* toil, but raise the price.

A committee, in 1683, report the use of 6,000 stochadoes of 12 feet long, at a cost of 24*l.*, used for the repair of the wharf; i. e. at the dock.

They ascertain the vessels and boats of the port, enroled by their names, to be as follows:—3 barques, 3 brigantines, 26 sloops, and 46 open boats. Some of their names are *rare* enough.

An ordinance of 1683 orders that "no youthes, maydes, or other persons may meete together on the Lord's Day for sporte or play," under a fine of 1*s.* No public houses may keep open door or give entertainment then except to strangers, under a fine of 10*s.* Not more than four Indian or negro slaves may assemble together; and at no time may they be allowed to bear any fire arms—this under a fine of 6*s.* to their owners.

A city surveyor "shall regulate the manner of each building on each street, (even crooked and "up and down" as it then was), so that *uniformity* (mark this) may be preserved. Are we then to presume they had

no scheme or system, who now complain of "winding narrow streets," and "cow paths" in the mazy and triangular city?

In 1683 markets were appointed to be held *three* times a-week, and to be opened and shut by ringing the bells. Cord wood, under the name of "stick wood," is regulated at the length of four feet.

A haven master is appointed to regulate the vessels in the mole, (the same before called the dock,) and is to collect the dock and bridge money.

A part of the slaughter-house (before appointed) by the Fly, is appointed in 1683 to be a powder house, and its owner, Garrett Johnson, is made the first keeper at 1*s.* 6*d.* a barrel. Of course, then locating it at the Vly, as far enough beyond the verge of population to allow of "a blow up."

In 1683 several streets therein named, are ordered to be paved by the owners concerned, and directs they shall plank up and barricade before their doors where needful to keep up the earth.

In 1684 the city requests from the king's government, the cession of all vacant land, the ferry, City Hall, dock, and bridge.

An order of king James is recognized and recorded in 1685, prohibiting all trade from New-York colony "with the East Indies," that being even then a claimed "privilege of the company of merchants of London." This proscribed East India commerce had more import than meets the eye, for it virtually meant to prohibit trade (unless by special grant) with the West Indies.

In 1685 the Jews of New-York petition to be allowed the public exercise of their religion, and are refused

on the ground that "none are allowed by act of assembly so to worship, but such as profess a faith in Christ." Experience has since proved that we are nowhere injured by a more liberal and free toleration. Laws "may bind the body down, but cannot restrain the flights the the spirit takes."

In 1686 a committee is appointed to inspect what vacant land they find belonging to Arien Cornelissen; and this entry is rendered curious by a recorded grant of 1687, preserved in the records of the office of the city comptroller, to this effect, saying—sixteen acres of the Basse Bowery (by which I understand low or meadow farm) is hereby granted unto Arien Cornelissen for the consideration of one fat capon a year. Who now can tell the value of that land for that small and peculiar compensation?

In 1691 it is ordered that there shall be but one butcher's shambles kept, and that to be on the green before the fort. The next year another (place for shambles I presume) is allowed under the trees by the Slip. At the same time it is ordered that fish (as at a market) be sold at the dock over against the City Hall. Thus referring to the Hall as then known on Pearl street, at the head of Coentie's Slip, under which was also a prison.

The clerk of the mayor's court in 1691, is charged to inquire after, and to collect and preserve the books and papers of the city, and to keep them safely with an inventory thereof. May not this record present an index hand to guide to some discovery of such historical rarities?

The mayor rents a shop or shops in the Market

house. One John Ellison is named as paying 3*l.* for such a shop.

In 1691 it is ordered that the inhabitants by the water side, "from the City Hall to the Slip," are to help build the wharf to run out before their lots; and every male negro in the city is to help thereat with one day's work.

The hucksters of that day, even as now, were very troublesome in forestalling the market, and laws were made to restrain them.

The bakers, too, had there ordeal to pass, and the regulation and limit of bread-loaves is often under the notice of the council.

Such are the amusing as well as instructive incidents of the ancient days in New-York, from which "the thinking bard" may "cull his pictur'd stores." Through such mazes, down "hoar antiquity,"

"The eye explores the feats of elder days."

It may well encourage to further research to know the fact, that I considered myself as gleaning from that first volume, all, in the few preceding pages, which I deemed the proper material for the amusements of history. If we would make the incidents of the olden time familiar and popular, by seizing on the affections and stirring the feelings of modern generations, we must first delight them with the comic and strange of history, and afterwards win them to graver researches. They who cater for such appetites, should always consider that there is a natural passion for the marvellous in every breast; and that every writer may be sure of his reader who limits his selections to facts which mark the extremes of our relative existence, or to objects "on

which imagination can delight to be detained." But there are means of inquiry exclusive of memorials and records; such as the recollections and observations of living witnesses, respecting "men and manners" of other days, and of things gone down to oblivion. These they retain with a lively impression, because of their original interest to themselves; and for that reason they are generally of such cast of character as to afford the most gratifying contemplations to those who seek them.

From a lively sense of this fact, I have been most sedulous to make my researches among the living chronicles, just waning to their final exit. These can only be consulted *now*, or never. From such materials we may hope to make some provision for future works of poetry, painting, and romance. It is the raw material to be elaborated into fancy tales and fancy characters by the Irvings, Coopers, and Pauldings of our country. By such means we generate the ideal presence, and raise an imagery to entertain and aid the mind. We raise stories, wherein "sweet fiction and sweet truth alike prevail."

LOCAL CHANGES AND LOCAL FACTS.

"To observe and preserve."

A GENTLEMAN of 80 years of age, told me of his digging out the trunk of a walnut tree, at nine feet depth, at his house at the Coenties slip, near Pearl-street.

He well remembered, in early life, to have seen a natural spring of fine fresh water at the fort, at a position a little north-west of Hone's house. There was also a fresh water well once at N. Prime's house near the Battery.

He saw the old fort cut down about the year 1688–9, when they found beneath the vault of the ancient Dutch church, once there, the leaden coffins of Lord Bellermont and lady. Vansant and Janeway were charged to remove them to St. Paul's church.

He saw a linseed oil factory worked with wind sails, on a high hill of woods, about a quarter of a mile north-east of the Kolch. This was about the year 1790.

About the same time he saw a beautiful meadow, and flourishing grass cut on the declining hill back of the City Hall towards the Kolch.

The "tea water fountain," out by Stuyvesant's field, is now very good, and was in great repute formerly. The region of country near the prison, on the East river, has now excellent water. There "Knapp" gets his "spring water" for the city supply.

A lady of about eighty-six years of age said she well remembered when the locality of the present St. Paul's church was a *wheat field.*

She also spoke of her remembrance of a "ferry house" in Broad-street, up above "Exchange place," (then garden alley) to which place the Indians used to come and set down in the street near there, and make and sell baskets.

The place called "Canvas Town," was made after the great fire in 1776. It lay towards the East River, and from Broad street to Whitehall street. It was so called

from the temporary construction of the houses, and their being generally covered with canvass instead of roofs. Very lewd and dissolute persons generally were their tenants, and gave them their notoriety and fame.

While the old fort existed, before the revolution, it contained within its bounds the mansion of the governors (military chieftains) and their gardens. There governors Dunmore, Tryon, &c. dwelt. New-York was a military station, and as such it had always a regiment of foot and a company of artillery; also a guard ship in the bay.

Mr. Abram Brower, aged seventy-five, informed me that the lots fronting the Vly market were originally sold out by the city corporation, at only one dollar the foot.

He said the market in Broadway (the Oswego I presume) was once leased to a Mr. Crosby for only 20*s.* for seven years.

He remembered when only horse boats ferried from Brooklyn, with only two men to row it, in which service they sometimes drove towards Governor's Island, and employed a whole hour. Only one ferry was used on the North River side, and then not to go across to Jersey city as now, but down to Blazing Star. Those who then came from Bergen, &c. used the country boats.

He said the Dutch *yachts* (then so called) were from one to two weeks in a voyage to Hudson and Albany. They came to, usually every night, "slow and sure." Then all on board spoke the Dutch language. [The mayor, Thomas Willet, in 1665, informs the corporation "he intends for Albania with the first opportunity, and prays its leave of absence."]

The last Dutch schoolmaster was Vanbombeler; he

kept his school till after the revolution. Mr. Brower himself went to a Dutch school, to his grand-father's, Abram Delanoye, (a French Hugonot, via Holland), who kept his school in Courtlant-street.

The first Methodist preaching in New-York was at a house in William-street, then a rigging loft. There Embury first preached; and being a carpenter, he made his own pulpit,—a true puritan characteristic.

Mr. Brower, when a boy, never heard of "Greenwich," the name was not even known; but the Dutch, when they spoke of the place, called it Shawbackanicka, an Indian name as he supposed. "Greenwich-street" was of course unknown.

He knew of no *daily* papers until after the revolution. Weyman and Gaine had each a weekly one, corresponding to their limited wants and knowledge. The first daily paper was by F. Child & Co., called the New-York *Daily* Advertiser, began in 1785.

He saw Andrews hanging in gibbets for piracy; he was hung long in irons, just above the Washington market, and was then taken to Gibbet Island and suspended there;—year 1769.

I notice such changes as the following:—

Maiden-lane is greatly altered for the better; formerly that street was much lower near its junction with Pearl-street; it was much narrower, and had no separate foot pavement; its gutter ran down the middle of the street. Where the lofty triangular store of Watson is seen up said street, was once a low sooty blacksmith shop, Olstein's, (a rarity now in the sight of passing citizens,) and near it a cluster of low wooden buildings.

In Pearl-street, below Maiden-lane, I have seen proof positive of the primitive river margin there; several of

the cellars, and shallow ones too, had water in them from that original cause.

I perceive that Duane-street, from Broadway, is greatly filled up; from one and a half to two stories there is made ground; the south corner of Duane-street, at Broadway, is sixteen feet filled up, and the same I am told in Broadway. South of this was originally a hill descending northward.

Where Leonard-street traverses the Broadway and descends a hill to the Collect, was well remembered an *orchard* but a few years ago. Some of the Collect was still open fourteen or fifteen years ago (it is said), and was skated upon.

The original Collect main *spring* still exists on Leonard-street, having a house now over it, lettered "supply engine."

The Kolch waters still ooze through the new made filled in ground, into the cellars, especially in wet seasons.

When they dug out some of the Kolch ground, some used the earth as *turf*, thinking it had that quality.

The Collect street runs through the leading line or centre of the old Kolch channel, and has under its pavement a sewer to lead off the water. This street is the thoroughfare of so much water, as to make it necessary to incline this street deeply to the middle as a deep gutter-way. Indeed, so much water, "deep and broad," flows along it like a sullied brook, that it might be well called Brook-street; helped, as the idea is, by the numerous foot planks, as miniature bridges, laid across it at intervals for the convenience of foot passengers.

About the year 1784–5, property near New-York

went down greatly; few or none had money to buy with. About the year 1785–6, alderman Wm. Bayard wished to raise cash by selling his farm, of one hundred and fifty acres, on the western side of Broadway and near the city. He devised the scheme of offering them in lots of twenty-five by one hundred feet; only twenty-five dollars was bid, and but few of them were sold. It was well for him, for very soon after feelings and opinions changed; and they who had bought for twenty-five dollars, sold out for one hundred dollars; and then, the impulse being given, the progressive rise has had no end.

A kinsman, G. T., told me, in 1828, that the out lots of the city "went up" about twenty-one years before, when from the circumstances of trade, &c. they began to fall much, and soon after to rise again more than ever. He bought lots four years before at the rate of $850, which would now bring him $1,800. Twenty-one years ago he bought lots for $2,000 reluctantly, which he in six months after sold for $4,000. That purchaser kept it till four years ago at its minimum price, and sold it for $2,000! Some of his property, which five years ago he would have freely sold for $2,000, would now be valued at $12,000. The lot at the corner of Broadway and Maiden-lane was sold for $27,600, equal to $22 per square foot. This is, however, a rare circumstance, having had the accident of attaining to much front along the newly extended Broadway.

The Stuyvesants, Rutgers, Delancys, and others, have attained to great riches by the rapid and unexpected growth of New-York, voraciously calling on such "out town" landlords for their farms at any price! Old Mr. Janeway, who died lately, at fourscore,

saw his few acres near the Chatham-street and Collect, grow in his long life and possession from almost nothing to a great estate. "While they slumbered and slept," their fortunes advanced without their effort or skill. Much the fact impresses the recollection of "Ecclesiasticus;" he saith, "There is one that laboureth and taketh pains and maketh haste, and is so much the more behind, (as many poor bankrupts know), and there is another that is slow and hath need of help, wanting ability, yet *he* is set up from his low estate!"

The head of Chatham-street, where it joins the Bowery road, although now a hill, has been cut down in modern times twelve feet. From this point, following the line of Division-street and thence down to the river, on the line of Catherine-street, was formerly Col. Rutger's farm; it was opened as city lots about thirty-five to thirty-eight years ago.

I found the once celebrated "tea water pump," long covered up and disused, again in use, but unknown, in the liquor store of a Mr. Fagan, 126 Chatham-street; I drank of it to revive recollections.

I have been surprised to find, in so magnificent a city, such a mean collection of hovels, of feeble wooden fabric, as I see in the rear of the great City Hall and the stately houses along Chamber-street; they lay on the line of Cross-street, descending a present hill, formerly much higher and more rugged, having only footpaths for clambering boys. The mean houses at the foot of the hill or street are now half buried in earth by the raising of the street ten feet; up to to this neighbourhood came once the *little* Collect; it forms the site generally of what was formerly Janeway's little farm.

The Magazine street here (because of the powder

house once close by) now named Pearl street, in continuation, as it runs towards the Hospital on Broadway, shows, I think, strong marks of having been at the period of the revolution, the utmost verge of city hopes. The range of Beekman and Vesey street had once bounded their expectations; and lastly, they extended to the natural lines of Pearl street as it crosses the city, and was there formed at the foot of the hills on its southern side. Before the Magazine street was formed, it was so essentially the imaginary line which bounded the Police of Justice, &c., that it was usual to designate the limits by the vague name of "the fresh water" side of the city. Thus referring to the great Kolch and its course of marshes, as separating all beyond in a *terra incognita.*

The houses No. 13 and 15 on Elm street, near the corner of Duane street, are singular evidences of modern innovation. They were originally good two story houses, and are now filled up in Elm street, nearly to their roofs.

In the rear of No. 48 Frankford street, is now a very ancient tar yard. This street, down to Ferry street, and from William street over to Jacob's street, is the region of what was formerly tan yards, and originally Beekman's swamp. An old man near here, said he remembered to have shot ducks here formerly. The father of another had told him he often gathered huckleberries; and fifty to sixty years ago it was common to exercise here in skating.

Mr. Lydigg told me that when the tanneries about here accumulated great hills of tan, it was the material for the fortifications of the boys, (preparing for the revolution by sham fights). Here great tar redoubts,

piked with cow horns, were defended bravely by the Pearl street and Fly boys against the invading urchins from Broadway. Sometimes the open field was resorted to on the present Park, where missiles of thwacking force were dealt with vigorous arm.

Mr. Jacob Tabele, aged eighty-seven, said that in his early days he heard much speaking of Dutch among the people and along the streets. He saw no lamps in the streets when a boy.

The powder house he remembered. A powder house, called the Magazine, on a rising ground (a kind of island) at the Collect.

In Nicholas Bayard's woods he often shot numerous pigeons.

He remembered they used to burn lime from oyster shells on the Park commons. This agrees with what Mr. Brower said, who imputed the name of *Collect* to the low Dutch for *burnt lime;* but it is more probable *Kolch* was the true name, from its meaning "fresh water" there.

He remembered ship yards between Beekman's and Burling's Slips.

There was once some small houses of wood, where is now St. Paul's Church.

He has seen river water flow through the sewer up the Maiden lane as high as Olstein's blacksmith shop on the triangular square.

There was a very high hill, once called "Bayard's Mount," on which the Americans built a fort, and called it Bunker Hill, in the time of the revolution, now cut down. It stood on present Grand street, a little east of Centre market.

He remembered the "ferry house" so called, high up

Broad street; had heard that the creek once run up there. The sign was a boat with iron oars. It was an inn with such a sign in his time.

He remembered seeing the block houses in a line of palisades, quite across the island; they went in a line from the back of Chambers street. They were of logs of about one story high. They being empty, were often used by Indians who made and sold baskets, &c. there. So said Ebbets also.

He remembered when boats could freely pass along the space now occupied by large trees on the Battery ground.

He well remembered the ancient City Hall (Stadt Huys) at the head of Coenties Slip; said he often heard it had been used as a fort in Leister's civil war against the real fort at the Battery. He had often seen a ball then shot at it, and which was left in the side wall of the house, (pulled down by Tunis Quick in 1827), on the south-west corner of Pearl street and Coenties Slip. That ball is now in the possession of Dr. Mitchell, as a relic.

There were market houses at every one of the slips in his time; the one at the foot of Wall street, nigh the Tontine, was called the Meal Market.

Said he often heard of Lindley Murray, (the grammarian) having leaped across Burling's Slip, (about twenty-one feet,) with a pair of fowls in his hands as he came from market. He believed it, and others spoke of it to me as true, and that his lameness afterwards was imputed to his efforts.

Mr. Tabele said there were but few streets paved. Broadway and other streets had all their gutter ways in the *middle*.

He remembered the Oswego market *in* Broadway, *opposite* to Liberty street. When demolished, another was placed at the west end of Maiden lane.

The Bear Market was the only one on the North River side. It took its name from the fact of the first meat ever sold in it having been bear meat, killed as the bear was swimming from the neighbourhood of Bergen shore.

William street, from John street northwards, used to be called Horse and Cart street, from an inn near there having such a sign.

Mr. Thorburn, the seedman, told me that when they were digging in Broadway to lay the Manhattan pipes, they came to the posts of the city gate once at Wall street. He also showed me a rarity in the *first* directory ever made for New-York, say in the year 1786. The very names of that day are curious; so few then who were foreigners. Such was the novelty or uselessness of a directory then, when every man knew his neighbour, that no other was attempted till the year 1793, that one Mr. Thorburn also possesses.

Mr. Thorburn's seed house is a curiosity itself—a rare conception on his part; and presenting to the eye of a walking passenger along the streets, a little *rus in urbe*.

An ancient house at the corner of Beaver lane and Broadway, of original two stories high, has its cellar wall exposed *out* of ground, thus showing the cutting down of Broadway six to eight feet at least. If we keep the idea of that elevation, we may form some idea of the primitive elevation of the ground whereon the fort stood.; aged men have told me they thought the highest elevation of the parapet walls was about equal to the walls of present houses near there.

Mr. Daniel J. Ebbets, aged seventy-six, who has been a very observant youth and is now an intelligent gentleman of lively mind, has helped me to many facts.

He says, the present Bowling Green was once an oblong square, and was well surrounded with large locust trees.

As late as the year 1787, he had assisted to draw a seine on the beach, where runs the present Greenwich street, say from Beaver lane to Battery: there they caught many fish and much of herring; the beach was beautiful; there boys and horses were wont to bathe and sport in the wave. A *street* to be *there* never entered the head of the sportive youth. A large rock (see it on Lyne's map) stood out in the middle of present Greenwich street, then in the water, on which was a kind of rude summer house, much to the mind and fancy of the boys; affording them a resort of much frolic and youthful glee.

Then Mr. Ebbets saw no commerce, nor vessels along the North River side. The Albany sloops all went round to East River, and all their sailors talked Dutch, and all understood it enough for their business.

He was familiar with the plot of the old fort, and described it thus:—first the green bank, which was sloping, was about fourteen feet high, on which was erected a wall of about twenty feet additional height. An old linden and two apple trees on the city side, were as high as the walls. Some barracks lay along the line of State street.

The Broadway, in 1772, entered only as high as the Hospital. Where the Hospital is, was "Rutger's orchard."

There was a rope walk (Vanpelt's) a little north of

Courtland street, running from Broadway to the North River. All the old deeds on north side of Courtland street, speak of fifteen feet of the said walk as in their lots. Another ran parallel to it from opposite the present Bridewell prison; and in its place, or near it, was formerly a range of British barracks; [as I think since, in the line of the present Scudder's Museum.]

The "brick meeting," built in 1764, on Beekman street, near Chatham street, was then said to be in popular parlance, in "the fields." There Whitefield was heard to preach.

Back of the above-mentioned barracks, and also behind the present jail, was a high hill, and on its descent a Negro burying ground; and thence further down, it was a fine meadow.

The British army gave the name of "the Mall" to their parade ground fronting the Trinity church.

There were very fine Sun fish and Roach fish caught in the Collect Pond.

The City Hall at the head of Broad street, (afterwards the Congress Hall) besides holding the courts, was also a prison. In front of it, on the head of Broad street, he remembered seeing there a *whipping post*, and *pillory*, and *stocks*. He has seen them lead the culprits round the town, whipping them at the cart tail. They also introduced the wooden horse as a punishment. The horse was put into the cart-body, and the criminal set thereon. Mary Price having been the first who had the infamous distinction, caused the horse ever after to be called, "the horse of Mary Price."

So recently has a part of Water street been filled up, that he could now lead to the spot there, where could be found the body of a vessel deep under present ground.

He verified the fact in Moulton's book, of a canal (or channel) of water running out of the present Beaver street, into the Broad street canal, in primitive times. He said that half way between Broad street and New street, in Beaver street, there had been dug up two bars of lead, evidently dropped overboard from some boat. At same place was a cedar post, upright, having on it the lines of the ropes of boats once tied to it.

The Mineral Spring, No. 8 Jacob's street, quaintly enough called "Jacob's Well," is a real curiosity, whether regarded either as an illusion or as a reality. The enterprise was bold to bore there one hundred and thirty feet, and the result is said to be that they found a spring having the properties of the Saratoga and Congress waters. Some distrust it, but the proprietors say, twenty-five thousand persons *used* it last year. It is a part of Beekman's swamp.

The house in Peck's Slip, north side, a yellow frame, No. 7, was pointed out to me by an aged person, as being in his youth the *nearest* house to the river, which was then so near, he could jump into the river then ranging along Water street, near to it. He said also that "Walton house," close by on Pearl street, No. 324, had its garden in its rear quite down to the river. He said the hill called Peck's Hill, from Walton house to the Franklin Bank, (at the union of Cherry and Pearl streets) was originally a much higher hill.

I went out to the Dry Dock and Steam Mill, for sawing, &c. on the river margin of "Stuyvesant's Swamp," or flats. It is a very wide extended wet flat, over which tides used to overflow, now sluiced out. Some low grass meadows appear; but generally it is a waste, coming now into incalculable value to that

family as building lots. The adjacent hills furnish abundance of coarse sand and gravel material for filling up, which is now busily pursued in the lines of the intended streets. Some of the ancient oaks are scattered around, and many stumps showing the recent woods about here, wherever not submerged in water. At the point or hook, a little beyond the Dry Dock, I saw a small mount, on which, in the revolution, was a small redoubt, near which lay the King Fisher sloop of war.

I observed great digging down of hills and removals of earth going on, all about the Stuyvesant Mansion house and farm. Mr. Nicholas S—— told me they often came to Indian graves, known as such by having oyster shells interred with the bones and sometimes some fragments of frail pottery.

Just beyond "Peter's Field" and mansion, extending up to the Fever Hospital at Bellevue, is a great bend or bay, which is now all filling up with innumerable loads of earth from the adjacent high grounds; the whole having a long wharf in front, calculated to extend down to the Dry Dock, all of which is to be laid out in streets and city lots. It is an immense and spirited undertaking, affording constant business for the labouring poor.

Canal street is a grand undertaking, effecting a great benefit, by draining through a great sewer the waters which once passed by the former canal to the Collect. The street is broad and the houses genteel; but as this region of ground was once swampy, it is liable now to have wet or damp cellars throughout the range of Lispenard's Swamp to the northward, and from Lafayette theatre, (which is laid on piles) down to the North River. Chapel street, which runs southward from Canal

street, follows the line of a former water-course (connecting with the canal formerly and now by a sewer) quite down to Leonard street, and has been all made ground, filled-in over the sewer.

From the inlets to those sewers is emitted a strong offensive smell of filth and salt water, only however perceptible at the apertures, and never known to have any deleterious effect on health.

Mr. Wilke, President of the Bank, told me he once stood centinel as a volunteer on the sand beach, close to the present old sugar house still standing nearly in the rear of the present City Hotel, on Broadway. Thus proving what I had before heard from Mr. Swords and others, that at the rear of Trinity church yard, a little beyond where Lumber street is now, the boys used to swim.

Mr. Wilke also told me he knew the parties who in 1780 fought a *duel* in the rear of the hospital ground.

In visiting Thomas Rammey, a good chronicle, I learned from himself and wife, several facts, to wit :—

Rammey had lived in Cross street; while there, he dug up remains of the old Magazine, and he could see evidence that water sometimes had enclosed it, [as Lyne's ancient map had shown.] His mother-in-law, if alive, would be one hundred and six years of age. She often talked of the block houses and palisades across the city, behind present City Hall; said the Indians occupied many places outside of their line, and used there to make baskets, ladles, &c. for sale. Many of them hutted outside the present Hospital, towards the North River.

She well remembered they were used at times, in high waters, to have a *ferry boat* to cross the people in Chat-

ham street, over where it crosses Pearl street, where it is still low ground. Lyne's map of 1729 marks this same place with a *bridge*.

She had a recollection of the wife of Gov. Stuyvesant, and used to go out to his farm near the flats, and there see numerous fish caught.

She remembered and spoke much of the Negro Plot —said it made terrible agitation—saw the Negroes hung back of the site of the present jail, in the Park. A wind-mill once stood near there.

The Jews' burying-ground was up Chatham street, on a hill, where is now the Tradesman's Bank.

She said the water once run from the Collect both ways; i. e. to the East River as well as to the North River. Sometimes the salt water came up to it from the North River in the winters, and raised the ice.

In her time the strand or beach on the East River was along present Pearl street generally; and at the corner of Pearl street and Maiden lane, there dwelt her brother-in-law, who used to keep his boat tied to his stoop to ferry him off by water.

She said Maiden lane got its name from the practice of women, the younger part, generally going out there to bleach their family linen: all of which was then made at home. It had a fine creek or brook, and was headed by a good spring. Some time afterwards, minor springs remained for a time in cellars there, and one was in Cuyler's house till modern times. The hills adjacent, clothed in fine grass, sloped gradually to the line of Maiden lane, and there *she* bleached with many others.

She said Broadway went no higher than St. Paul's church.

She said "Chapel Hill," where is now Dr. Milnor's church, on Beekman street, was a very high mount and *steep*, from which the boys with sleds used to slide down on the snow, quite to the swamp below. With this agrees the fact told me by Mr. James Bogert, that his father, in latter times, used to ride up to it as a high apple orchard.

Mr. Rammey said, that behind the City Hall once stood an old Alms house, built in 1710, and taken down about the year 1793; perhaps the burials behind it gave rise to the remark made to me by Dr. Francis, that along the line of Chamber street are many graves.

He says he used to be told that the real "ferry house" on Broad street, was at the north-east corner of Garden street, now Exchange place, and is lately taken down, [and so several others have also suggested to me]; and that the other, (No. 19) a little higher up, (the north end of the custom house store) was only a second inn, having a ferry boat sign, either in opposition, or to perpetuate the other. He said the boats were flat bottomed, and used to come from Jersey. To *me* I confess it seems to have been a singular location for a ferry, but as the tradition is so general and concurrent, I incline to think it was so called from its being a resort of country boats coming there to find a central place for their sales. I have heard the names of certain present rich families, whose ancestors were said to come there with oysters.

A man actually born in the old ferry house, at the corner, and who dwelt there forty years, described it as a very low one story house, with very high and steep pediment roof; its front on Broad street; its side along

Garden alley had two dormer windows in the roof, much above the plate; shingle roof covered with moss: one hundred years probably of age; had an iron boat, and oars and anchor for a sign; the "Governor's house" adjoined it in the alley. An old lady close by confirmed all this. *A picture of the whole scene is annexed.*

Mr. David Grim, an aged citizen, to whom we are indebted for much valuable *data* given to the Historical Society, has estimated in detail the houses of the city in 1744 to have 1141 in number, of which only 129 houses were on the west side of the Broadway to the North River inclusive: thus evidencing fully, that the tide of population very greatly inclined to the East River.

Mrs. Myers, the daughter of said D. Grim, said she had seen the British barracks of wood, enclosed by a high fence. It extended from Broadway to Chatham street, along present Chamber street, exactly where is now the Museum. It had a gate at each end;—the one by Chatham street was called "Tryon's Gate," after the name of the governor, from which we have derived since *there*, the name of "Tryon's Row."

About the year 1788 the whole of the ancient fort, near the site of the present Battery, was all taken down and levelled under the direction of Messrs. J. Pintard, Vansant, and Janeway, as city commissioners. The design was to prepare the site to erect thereon a house for General Washington as President of the United States; but as the Congress removed to Philadelphia, he never occupied it, and it therefore became the "governor's house" in the person of Governor Clinton.

In taking down the ancient Dutch chapel vault, they

came to the remains of Lord and Lady Bellermont, in leaden coffins, known by family escutcheon and inscriptions on silver plates. These coffins, with the bones of several others, were taken by Mr. Pintard, who told me, to St. Paul's church ground, where they all rest now in one common grave, without any notice above ground of "storied urn or animated bust." The silver plates were taken by Mr. Vansant for a museum; but he dying, they fell into hands which, with much bad taste, converted them into spoons! A story much like this is told of the use made of the coffin plates of Governor Paulus Vanderbrecke and wife, placed first in G. Baker's museum, and afterwards in Tamany Hall. Lord Bellermont died in 1701.

This brief notice of the once renowned dead, so soon divested of sculptured fame, leads me to the notice of some other cases where the sculpturor's hand could not give even brief existence to once mighty names; I refer to the king's equestrian statue of lead in the centre of the Bowling Green, and to Pitt's marble statue in Wall street, centre of William street. Both are gone, and scarcely may you learn the history of their abduction. So frail is *human* glory!

The latter I found, after much inquiry and search, in the Arsenal yard on the site of the Collect. It had before been to Bridewell yard. The statue is of fine marble and fine execution, in a Roman toga, and showing the roll of *Magna Charta*; but it is decapitated, and without hands—in short, a sorry relic! Our patriot fathers of the revolution, when they erected it, swore it should be as eternal as "enduring marble;" they idolized the man as their British champion,

"In *freedom's* cause with generous warmth inspired."

But the fact was, while the British army occupied New-York, their champion lost his head on some unknown occasion, and has never since been heard of! The statue itself was taken down soon after the peace, both as an inconvenience in the street, so narrow there in the busy mart, and also as a deformity. Alexander M'Cormick, Esq. who dwelt near the statue, told me it disappeared the night of St. Andrew, when, as it was whispered, some British officers, who had been at their revels, struck it off in revelry rather than in spite. No inquisition was made for it at the time; one hand had before been struck off, it was supposed, by boys. A story was told among some Whigs, that the Tories had struck off the head in retaliation for the alleged insult offered to the king, by drawing his statue along the street to melt it into bullets for the war. My friend John Baylie was present in April, '76, and saw the degrading spectacle. He saw no decent people present; a great majority were shouting boys. The insult, if so meant, was to the *dead*, as the statue was of George II., "our most gracious king!"

"Then boast not honours. *Sculpture* can bestow
Short-lived renown!"

[Querie: should not the Society of Artists possess and repair such a piece of art as Pitt's statue?]

Before the revolution, and even some time afterwards, William street was the great mart for dry good sales, and chiefly from Maiden lane up to Pearl street. It was the proper Bond street too for the beaux and shopping belles. Now Broadway has its turn.

Pearl street then had no stores, but it was the place of good dwellings; then Broadway had no stores or business, and had but a few scattered houses about the region of the new City Hall.

Before the revolution, the only road out of town was by the Bowery road, and was once called "the high road to Boston."

The Bowling Green was before called "the Parade."

Mr. Thomas Swords, aged sixty-six, told me he remembered to have seen the remains of an old redoubt by Grace and Lumber street, (corner), the same which was presumed once to have terminated the northern line of the city along Wall street. It was a hill there; there American prisoners were buried in time of the revolution; and he has seen coffins there in the wasting banks of the mount; at the foot of it, was the beach along the North river.

The grand-father of Mr. James Bogert told him that oyster vessels used to come up Broad street to sell them; and in later times, water used to enter cellars along that street from the canal.

David Grim, in his very interesting topographical draft of the city as it was in 1742–4, (done by him when seventy-six years of age, in the year 1813) is a highly useful relic and gift of the *olden time*. His generous attention to posterity in that gift to the Historical Society is beyond all praise, as a work in itself *sui generis*, and not to be replaced by any other data. He was a chronicle, who lived to be eighty-nine, and to *wonder* at the advancements and *changes* around him! I here mark some of his facts:

He marks the "Governor's Garden" near the fort, as ranging along the line of Whitehall street, next the fort,

and there turning an angle of the fort and enclosing westward to the river. This also agrees with the report of others, who told me of seeing deer kept by the governor in front of the fort on the ground of the Water Battery.

Mr. Grim marks the line of a narrow canal or channel in Broad street, as open above the present Pearl street, and there covered by the bridge or Exchange house, or both.

He marks the localities of public wells in the middle of the streets.

He marks Rutger's farm as lying north-west of the Collect, and Winthorn's farm as south-east of the same.

At the foot of Courtlandt street he marks the then *only wharf*. We know it was built there for the king's purposes, having thereon an Arsenal reaching up to Dey street.

Mr. David Grim told his daughter of there having been a market once held at the head of Broad street. This agrees with what G. N. Bleeker, Esq. told me, as from his grand-mother, who spoke of a market at Garden street, which was in effect the same place.

Bakewell's City Portrait of 1747, a fine perspective, marks the great dock at the foot of Broad street as having a long dividing wharf projecting into it from Broad street, and set on piles, which leads me to the idea of "the bridge" so often named there. It was probably the landing place for the unloaded goods from vessels in the east and west mole on both sides of it.

A low market house on arches, having a large dial plate on its roof in front, is set at the foot of Broad street.

The city corporation grants to Trinity church, in 1703, as I saw of record in Mr. Bleeker's office, the grounds there "for a burying place for the inhabitants of the city forever; and upon any of the inhabitants of said city paying therefor to the Rector, &c. 3*s.* for each corpse above twelve years of age, and 1*s.* 6*d.* for any under twelve years of age, and no more." This last emphatic word may seem peculiar when we reflect how very special and exclusive those grounds have been so long occupied.

In the minutes of council of 1696, I saw that a sewer of 1100 feet length was recommended to be made in the Broad street.

I saw in the city commissioner's office, that the population of New-York, in 1730, was only 8638; and in 1825, it was 166,086.

David Grim told Mr. Lydigg that he had seen the river water over Chatham street and Pearl street, and extending from the East to the North river; along the line of the Collect as I presume.

Mr. Brower and others have explained to me, that all along the present Grand street, as it approaches to Corlear's Hook, was formerly very high hills covered with apple and peach trees. Much too of the present level of Harman street, leading into Grand street, was formerly hills of sixty feet height. The materials of these hills so cut down furnish excellent gravel for new streets, and especially the means of extending their grounds out into the rivers.

Hudson's Square is a beautiful embellishment of New-York, redeemed from a former waste, once a sand beach. The large growth of the trees and the abundance of grateful shade, make it, in connexion with the superi-

ority of the uniform houses which surround it, a place of imposing grandeur. The continuous long lines of iron palisades, both round the square and before the areas of every house, and up the several door steps, give a peculiar aspect of European style and magnificence.

The residences of Col. Rutgers and Col. Willet, though originally located far out of town, on the East river side, have been surrounded by the encroaching population; but as the encroachments have not been permitted to close very close upon them, they are still enabled to retain some grounds around them of rural appearance. Col. Willet's house was formerly on a knoll situated on the margin of Stuyvesant swamp. Soon all such recollections will be obliterated by the entire different face of things now beginning to appear there.

David Grim said he remembered when carmen first took about the tea water; it was but one-third of present prices. The water, formerly, was good at the wells and some of the street pumps.

He remembered when only one lamp was used in the street—say at the corner of Wall and William streets.

Mr. Brower told me, street lamps came into use about ten years before the revolution. The carts at that time were not allowed to have any tire on their wheels.

The carriage of the mail between New-York and Philadelphia, even since the revolution, was a very small matter; it was hardly an affair to be robbed, for a boy, without any means of defence, took the whole in saddle-bags on horseback. Then they wondered to see it enlarged, and took it on a sulky; and by and bye, "the wonder grew," that it should still more enlarge,

and they took off the body and run it in a large bag on the platform set on the wheels. It was then long deemed as at its *ne plus ultra;* whereas now it is a load of itself for a four horse stage! At that time the post always went to and fro from the "Blazing Star," vis a vis Staten Island, now unknown as a great thoroughfare.

General Washington's residence in New-York was at the house now the Franklin Bank; to that house he once went in procession. The house was kept by Osgood, and was then No. 1, in pre-eminence.

The house No. 176 Water street, was the first in New-York to change leaden sashes for wooden ones; leaden ones were general. Even Trinity church had its leaden panes put in after the fire of 1778.

Dr. Hosack's map, showing the grounds of New-York as invaded by water from the rivers, marks "Rutger's Swamp," as united to the East river by a little creek a little to the eastward of Rutger's Slip.

At Corlear's Hook he also marks much marsh ground, uniting to the river by a small creek.

Beekman's Swamp is also united to the East river by a little creek next south-west of Peck's Slip.

Governor's Island, originally called Nutting Island, because of the quantity of hazel and other nuts growing there, and furnishing the winter's supply to the citizens. In later times, says Knickerbocker, it was cultivated in gardens for the use of the colonial governors—"once a smiling garden of the sovereigns of the province."

It was originally a part of Long Island, however it may now appear to the eye on beholding so wide a separation by deep water. This widening and deepen-

ing of the Buttermilk Channel has been caused by the filling in of the south side of the city.

An old gentleman is now alive who remembers that, as late as 1786, the Buttermilk Channel was then deemed unsafe even for boats to pass through it, because of the numerous rocks there. It was, however, so used for a boat channel, through which boats with milk and buttermilk, going to New-York market from Long Island, usually made their passage. My mother has told me that when she first entered New-York harbour, then a girl, she was surprised to see all the market boats traversing the East river rowed by robust women without hats or bonnets—their heads fitted with close caps—two rowers to each.

The same gentleman who told of the channel as he noticed it in 1786, had his attention called to it then by a Mr. Van Alstine, upwards of eighty years of age, who said that he remembered when Governor's Island was separated from Long Island only by a narrow creek, which was crossed upon a log raised above the high tide, and having staked logs for a footway through the marsh then there on each side of the creek.

William Richards, of Philadelphia, famous there for pickling sturgeon, went on to New-York before the revolution, to plant lobsters in the neighbourhood of New-York; before which time they chiefly imported them from Rhode Island. He had a vote of thanks of the Assembly many years afterwards. Lobsters after this probably became naturalized about Harlem.

In 1756 the *first* stage is started between Philadelphia and New-York, by Mr. Butler; three days through.

In 1765 a second stage is announced to travel be-

tween New-York and Philadelphia, to go through in three days, being a covered Jersey wagon, at 2*d.* a mile —owned in Philadelphia.

In 1766 another stage, called "the Flying Machine," to go through in two days, "in good wagons and seats on springs," at 3*d.* a mile or 20*s.* through. This also owned in Philadelphia.

In 1756 the first British "Packet boats" commence from New-York to Falmouth; each letter to pay four penny weights of silver.

All newspapers went *free* of postage before the year 1758. It was then ordered that by reason of their *great increase*, they should pay 9*d.* a year for fifty miles, and 1*s.* 6*d.* for one hundred miles.

In 1755 the mail was changed from once a fortnight to once a week.

Mr. M'Cormick, of Wall street, remembered when "Burnett's Key" extended from Wall street up to Maiden lane, in one entire line of front, and projecting out from Water street, beyond any other line of wharves. It was the bathing place of the city boys and of himself.

In 1702 New-York was visited with a very mortal sickness. Isaac Norris' Mss. letter says, "the great sickness—Barbadoes Distemper or Yellow Fever—as we had it in Philadelphia three years before. Some hundred died there, and many left the town; so that as we passed it, it was almost desolate."

In 1743 a yellow fever, as it was called, visited New-York—"not imported;" but like it was at Philadelphia three years before; they had black vomit and spots. Vide R. Peters' Mss.

In digging for a lamp post, at the north-east corner of Reed street and Broadway, they were surprised to

get up several human bones, and thus leading to the recollection of the former fact, that between that place and Chamber street was once the area of the negroes' burying ground; it was on a descending hill, inclining northward.

In Lyne's Survey of New-York, he marks a lane called "Old Windmill Lane," laying between present Courtlandt and Liberty streets, extending from Broadway to present Greenwich street, and thence northwestward towards the river side, where the Windmill must have stood. It was then the most northern street on the western side of Broadway; all beyond was the king's farm.

The same survey fills up the head of present Broadway, with a long rope-walk, and a long line of trees, reaching from present Barclay street as high as the hospital.

At that time there was at the foot of the present Chamber street, on North river, a distinguished public garden and Bowling Green.

Among the names of streets *changed*, are these:—present Pine street was called King street; Pearl street was Queen street; Cedar street now, was Little Queen street; Liberty street was Crown street, importing *the Crown* supplanted by our *self-rule* since. The western end of Garden street, was a *hill* called Flatten-barrack—a celebrated place for the boys in winter to sled down hill. Present Beaver street, east of Broad street, was Princess street; present Stone street, east of Broad street, was Duke street; Pearl street, near Broad street, was Dock street; John street now, east of William street, was called Golden Hill. The hill once there at its intersection with Cliff street, gave rise to the name of

that street along the Cliff. William street, at its southern end, was called South street—say from Maiden lane to the East river.

There was, until a few years ago, a very large and notable wide-spreading tree at *the Hall*, at the corner of Wall and Broad streets. Under its shade was once a very clamorous public meeting, in the year 1794, to oppose Jay's treaty. It had in earlier years been a grateful rendezvous for holiday negroes. A gentleman and correspondent, who saw it cut down to make place for a rum vault, says, I could not but wish a curse on every rum cask which should ever usurp its place, wishing they might burst and scald the worms instead of the livers of men. There, says he, I had thirty years before listened to the stories of those Dutch worthies, Doct. Anthon, C. Ham, and J. Nichie, smoking their pipes in a summer evening under its shade, and bringing back the days and the tales of the negro plot and Indian wars, &c.

MANNERS AND CUSTOMS.

"A different face of things each age appears,
And *all things alter* in a course of years."

I AM indebted for the following ideas of "Men and Manners once," as seen in the middle state of life generally, by facts imparted to me by the aged, to wit:—

The Dutch kept five festivals, of peculiar notoriety, in the year: say *Kerstydt*, (Christmas); *Nieuw jar*,

(New Year), a great day of cake; *Paas*, (the Passover); *Pinxter*, (i. e. Whitsuntide); and *San Claas*, (i. e. Sainst Nicholas, or Christ-kinkle day). The negroes on Long Island, on some of those days, came in great crowds to Brooklyn and held their field frolics.

The observance of New Year's day (Nieuw jar) is an occasion of much good feeling and hospitality, come down to the present generation from their Dutch forefathers. No other city in the union ever aims at the like general interchange of visits. Cakes, wines, and punch abound in every house; and, from morning till night houses are open to receive the calls of acquaintances, and to pass the mutual salutations of a "happy New Year," &c.

It was the general practice of families in middle life, to spin and make much of their domestic wear at home. Short gowns and petticoats were the general in-door dresses.

Young women who dressed gay to go abroad to visit, or to church, never failed to take off that dress and put on their home-made as soon as they got home; even on Sunday evenings when they expected company, or even their beaux, it was their best recommendation to seem thus frugal and ready for any domestic avocation. The boys and young men of a family always changed their dress for a common dress in the same way. There was no custom of offering drink to their guests; when punch was offered, it was in great bowls.

Dutch dances were very common; the supper on such occasions was a pot of chocolate and bread. The Rev. Dr. Laidlie who arrived in 1764, did much to preach them into disuse; he was very exact in his piety, and was the *first* minister of the Dutch Reform-

ed Church who was called to preach in the *English* language.

The negroes used to dance in the markets, where they used tomtoms, horns, &c. for music. They used often to sell negro slaves at the coffee-house.

All marriages had to be published beforehand, three weeks at the churches, or else, to avoid that, they had to purchase a *license* of the *governor*:—a seemingly singular surveillance for a great *military* chief! We may presume *he* cared little for the fact beyond his fee.

Before the revolution, tradesmen of good repute worked hard;—there were none as masters, mere lookers-on; they hardly expected to be rich; their chief concern in summer was to make enough a-head to lay up carefully for a living in severe winter. Wood was even a serious concern to such, when only 2s. 6d. to 3s. a load.

None of the stores or tradesmen's shops then aimed at any rivalry as now. There were no glaring allurements at windows, no over-reaching signs, no big bulk windows; they were content to sell things at honest profits, and to trust to an earned reputation for their share of business.

It was the Englishmen from Britain who brought in the painted glare and display. They also brought in the use of open shops at night, an expensive and needless service!—for who sells more in day and night, where all are competitors, than they would in one day if all were closed at night?

In former days the same class who applied diligently in business hours, were accustomed to close their shops and stores at an early hour, and to go abroad for exer-

cise and recreation, or to gardens, &c. All was done on foot, for chaises and horses were few.

The candidates for the Assembly, usually from the city, kept open houses in each ward, for one week; producing much excitement among those who thought more of the regale than the public weal.

Physicians in that day were moderate in their charges, although their personal labour was great. They had to make all their calls on foot, none thought of riding. Drs. Baylie and M'Knight, when old, were the first who are remembered as riding to their patients. Dr. Attwood is remembered as the first physician who had the hardihood to proclaim himself as a *man* midwife; it was deemed a scandal to some delicate ears, and Mrs. Granny Brown, with her fees of two to three dollars, was still deemed the choice of all who thought "women should be modest!"

"Moving day" was, as now, the first of May, from time immemorial.

They held no "fairs," but they often went to the "Philadelphia Fairs," once celebrated.

At the New Year and Christmas festivals, it was the custom to go out to the ice on Beekman's and such like swamps to shoot at turkeys; every one paid a price for his shot, as at a mark, and if he hit it so as to draw blood, it was his for a New Year or Christmas Dinner. A fine subject this for Dr. Laidlie's preaching and reformation!

At funerals, the Dutch gave *hot* wine in winter; and in summer they gave wine-sangaree.

I have noticed a singular custom among Dutch families;—a father gives a bundle of *goose quills* to a son, telling him to give one to each of his male posterity.

I saw *one* in the possession of Mr. James Bogert, which had a scroll appended, saying, "this quill, given by Petrus Byvanck to James Bogert, in 1789, was a present in 1689, from his grand-father from Holland."

It is now deemed a rule of high life in New-York that ladies should not attend funerals; it was not always so. Having been surprised at the change, and not being aware of any sufficient reason why females should have an exemption from personal attention to departed friends, from which their male relatives could not, I have been curious to inquire into the facts in the case. I find that females among the Friends attend funerals, and also among some other religious communities.

I have been well assured that before the revolution, genteelest families had ladies to their funerals, and especially if she was a female; on such occasions "burnt wine" was handed about in tankards, often of silver.

On one occasion, the case of the wife of Daniel Phœnix, the city treasurer, all the pall-bearers were ladies; and this fact occurred *since* the revolution.

Many aged persons have spoken to me of the former delightful practice of familes sitting out on their "stoopes" in the shades of the evening, and there saluting the passing friends, or talking across the narrow streets with neighbours. It was one of the grand links of union in the Knickerbocker social compact. It endeared and made social neighbours; made intercourse on easy terms; it was only to say, "come sit down." It helped the young to easy introductions, and made courtships of readier attainment.

I give some facts to illustrate the above remarks, deduced from the family of B—— with which I am per-

sonally acquainted. It shows primitive Dutch manners. His grandfather died at the age of sixty-three in 1782, holding the office of alderman eleven years, and once chosen mayor and declined. Such a man, in easy circumstances in life, following the true Dutch ton, had all his family to breakfast, all the year round, at day-light. Before the breakfast he universally smoked his pipe. His family always dined at twelve exactly. At that time the kettle was invariably set on the fire for tea, of Bohea, which was always as punctually furnished at three o'clock. Then the old people went abroad on purpose to visit relatives, changing the families each night in succession, over and over again all the year round. The regale at every such house was expected as matter of course, to be chocolate supper and soft waffles.

Afterwards, when green tea came in as a new luxury, loaf sugar also came with it; this was broken in large lumps and laid severally by each cup, and was nibbled or bitten as needed!

The family before referred to actually continued the practice till as late as seventeen years ago, with a steady determination in the patriarch to resist the modern innovation of dissolved sugar while he lived.

Besides the forgoing facts, I have had them abundantly confirmed by others.

While they occupied the stoopes in the evening, you could see every here and there an old Knickerbocker with his long pipe, fuming away his cares, and ready on any occasion to offer another for the use of any passing friend who would sit down and join him. The ideal picture has every lineament of contented comfort and cheerful repose. Something much more composed

and happy than the bustling anxiety of "over business" in the moderns.

The cleanliness of Dutch housewifery was always extreme; every thing had to submit to scrubbing and scouring; dirt in no form could be endured by them: and dear as water was in the city, where it was generally sold, still it was in perpetual requisition. It was their honest pride to see a well-furnished dresser, showing copper and pewter in shining splendour, as if for ornament rather than for use. In all this they widely differed from the Germans, a people with whom they have been erroneously and often confounded. Roost fowls and ducks are not more different. As water draws one, it repels the other.

It was common in families then to cleanse their own chimneys without the aid of hired sweeps; and all tradesmen, &c. were accustomed to saw their own fuel. No man in middle circumstances of life ever scrupled to carry home his one cwt. of meal from the market; it would have been *his* shame to have avoided it.

A greater change in the state of society cannot be named than that of hired persons. Hired women, from being formerly lowly in dress, wearing short gowns of green baize and petticoats of linsey-woolsey, and receiving but half a dollar a week, have, since they have threbled that wages, got to all the pride and vanity of "showing out" *to strangers* as well drest ladies. The cheapness of foreign finery gives them the ready means of wasting all their wages in decorations. So true it is, that

> "Excess, the scrofulous and itchy plague,
> Taints downward, all the graduated scale!"

The Quarterly Review has preserved one fact of menial impudence, in the case of the New-York girl telling her mistress, before her guests, that "the more you ring the more I won't come!"

General Lafayette, too, left us a compliment of dubious import on his late formal *entre* at New-York, when seeing such crowds of well-dressed people, and no remains of such as he had seen in the period of the revolution—a people whose dress was adapted to their condition—he exclaimed, "but where is the *people?*" emphatically meaning, where is the *useful class of citizens*, "the hewers of wood and drawers of water?"

> "All are infected with the manners and the modes
> It knew not once."

Before the revolution, all men who worked in any employ always wore his leathern apron before him, never took it off to go in the street, and never had on a long coat.

We are glad to witness the rise of new feelings among the Dutch descendants, tending to cherish, by anniversary remembrances, the love and reverence they owe their sires. For this object, as they have no "landing day," they resort to their tutelary protector, Saint Nicholas: on such occasions decorating themselves or hall, with orange colored ribbons, and inscribing "Oranje Boven," and garnishing their table with "Malck and Suppawn," with rullities, and their hands with long stemmed pipes.

We are sorry we do not know the history better than we do, of a saint so popular as he is, with only his name of *St. Claes* to help him. He seems however to be the

most merry and jocose in all the calendar. The boys all welcome him as "the bountiful Saint Nick," and as "De Patroon Van Kindervreugd;" i. e. the patron of children's joy.

> "A right jolly old elf, with a little round belly,
> Which shakes when he laughs, like a bowl full of jelly."

All we know from Knickerbocker, is what the figure of Hudson's *Guede Vrouw* represented him as attired "in a low brimmed hat, a large pair of Flemish trunk hose, and a very long pipe."

In 1765 the best families in New-York entered into certain sumptuary laws to restrain the usual expenses and pomp of funerals.

MEMORIALS OF THE DUTCH DYNASTY.

> "Dwell o'er the remembrance of former years!"

HAVING said that the office of the common council contains no records of the city preceding the conquest by the British, I shall add here some tokens of the fact, that there are numerous collections of Dutch records now existing in the archives of state at Albany furnishing a rich mine of antiquarian lore for some future explorer.

> "Yet still with memory's busy eye retrace
> Each little vestige of the well-lov'd place!"

The Records thus speak, viz :—

Fort Amsterdam (at New-York) is repaired and finished in 1635.

Paulus Hook is sold by Governor Keift, in 1638, to Abraham Isaacs Plank, for 450 guilders.

For scandalizing the governor, one Hendrick Jansen, in 1638, is sentenced to stand at the fort door, at the ringing of the bell, and ask the governor's pardon.

For slandering the Rev. E. Bogardus, in 1638, (Pastor of the Reformed Church then in the fort) a female is obliged to appear at the sound of the bell at the fort, and there, before the governor and council, to say, "she knew he was honest and pious, and that she lied falsely."

Torture was inflicted upon Jan Hobbes, who had committed a theft. The evidence seemed sufficient, but it was adjudged he should also make his confession by torture.

For drawing his knife upon a person, one Guysbert Van Regerslard was sentenced, in 1638, to throw himself three times from the sail-yard of the yatch, the Hope, and to receive from each sailor there three lashes.

The wooden horse punishment is inflicted, in Dec. 1638, upon two soldiers: they sit thereon for two hours. This was a military punishment used in Holland. He strode a sharp back, and his body was forced down to it by a chain and iron stirrup, or a weight, fastened to his legs.

Goat milk and Goats appear as a subject of frequent mention and regulation.

Cases of slander often appear noticed; such as that Jan Jansen complains of Adam Roelants for slander, whereupon it was ordered that each party pay to the use of poor the sum of 25 guilders each.

Tobacco appears to have been an article of cultivation, and of public concern and commerce. Van Twiller had his tobacco farm at Greenwich. On the 5th August, 1638, two inspectors were nominated to inspect "tobacco cultivated here for exportation;" and on the 19th August, same year, it is recorded that because of "the high character it had obtained in foreign countries," any adulterations should be punished with heavy penalties. [This agrees with the fact at Philadelphia county; there they also, in primitive days, sixty years after the above facts, cultivated tobacco in fields.]

A cattle fair was established, to be held annually on the 15th Oct. and of *hogs* on the 1st Nov., beginning from the year 1641.

Tavern-keepers; none of them shall be permitted to give any supper parties after nine o'clock at night. In case of any Indian being found drunk, his word, when sober, shall be deemed good enough evidence against the white person who made him so.

The oath of allegiance was to be taken by all officers of government as a "test act," by swearing "to maintain the reformed religion, in conformity to the word of God and the decree of the Synod of Dordretch." Under such solemn obligations to duty, it is scarcely to be wondered at, or even condemned, that the officers in authority, overlooking the mild spirit of the gospel of peace, and adhering to the letter and the oath to the Synod, &c. should be led out to persecution. We therefore find, for we may tell a little of the truth in this matter, that in 1657 sundry Quakers, "for publicly declaring in the streets," were subjected to the dungeon, &c.; and Robert Hodgson was led at a cart tail, with his arms pinioned, then beaten with a pitched rope until he fell;

Governor Stuyvesant – the last of the Dutch Rulers – 1664.–



Lith Risso & Browne.

afterwards he was set to the wheelbarrow to work at hard labour. This continued until the compassion of the sister of Governor Stuyvesant being excited, her intercession with that governor prevailed to set him free. About the same time John Bowne, ancestor of the present respectable family of that name, was first imprisoned and next banished for the offence he gave as a Quaker. It was an ordinance of that day, "that any person receiving any Quaker into their house, though only for one night, should forfeit £50! Little did they understand in that day, that "the sure way to propagate a new religion was to proscribe it."

Good Dr. Cotton, in common with good Paul of Tarsus, were both persecutors, "haling men and women to prison," and saying, "If the worship be *lawful*, (and they the *judges!*) the *compelling* to come *to it* compelleth not to sin; but the *sin* is in the *will* that *needs* to be *forced* to christian *duty!* So *self-deceiving* is bigotry and intolerance.

There are some fine relics of the Gov. Stuyvesant above referred to, still preserved in his family, valuable to a thinking mind for the moral associations they afford. I saw them at the elegant country mansion of his descendant Nicholas William Stuyvesant, to wit:— a portrait of Stuyvesant, in armour, which had been well executed in Holland, and probably while he was yet an Admiral there. His head is covered with a close black cap, his features strong and intrepid, skin dark, and the whole aspect not unlike our best Indian faces; a kind of shawl or sash is cast round his shoulder; has a large white shirt collar drooping from the neck; has small mustachios on his upper lip, and no beard elsewhere shown. As I regarded this quiet remains of this once

great personage, I inwardly exclaimed: and is this he in whom rested the last hopes of the Netherlanders in our country? Himself gone down to "the tomb of the Capulets!" His remains "rest in hope" near by, in the family vault, once constructed within the walls of the second built Reformed Dutch church, which, for pious purposes, he had built at his personal expense on his own farm. The church is gone, but the place is occupied by the present church of St. Mark. On the outside wall of this latter church I saw the original stone designating the body of him whose rank and titles stood thus inscribed, to wit:

"In this vault, lies buried
PETRUS STUYVESANT,
late Captain General and Commander in Chief of Amsterdam
in New Netherland, now called New-York, and the
Dutch West India Islands.
Died in August, A. D. 1682, aged eighty years."*

A fine pear tree stands just without the grave yard wall, in lively vigour, although so old as to have been brought out from Holland and planted there by the Governor Stuyvesant himself.

Besides seeing the portrait of the governor and captain general as aforesaid in his array of manhood, I saw also a singular token of his puerility; no less than the very infant shirt, of fine holland, edged with narrow lace, in which the chief was devoted in baptism and received his christening. It perhaps marks the character of the age, in his family thus preserving this kind of token.†

* He was governor seventeen years, from 1647 to 1664.

† Stow says, christening shirts were given in the time of Elizabeth; afterwards, Apostles' spoons were given as memorials.

I saw also the portrait of his son, done also in Holland, in the seventeenth year of his age. He is mounted upon a rampart charger; his head covered with a low crowned black hat, a blue coat; his white shirt sleeves have the cuffs laced and turned up over the cuffs of the coat; wears shoes with high heels, and his silk hose came up above his knees on the outside of the breeches, and appear there looped up in their place.

There I also saw portraits of Bayard and his wife. He appears garbed as a priest; he was father-in-law to Governor Stuyvesant.

Other relics of the Stuyvesant family might have possibly remained, but as the family house, occupied by the uncle of the present Nicholas William, was burnt in the time of the revolution by some of the persons of Sir Henry Clinton's family, who staid there, it is probable that relics and papers have been lost.

The *first* minister ever appointed to the Dutch church in New Amsterdam, was the Rev. Everardus Bogardus; he officiated in the church erected in 1642 within the fort. Thus making it, as it probably was, in the governmental rulers in the Netherlands, an affair of military conformity, not unlike the chaplain concerns of modern warfare. At all events, we soon hear of *the people* taking it into their minds to have another church, to wit: the old "South Dutch Church," founded in 1643 in Garden alley, and then objected to as being "too far out of towne." A rare demur in our modern views of *distance.*

Besides the church so granted without the fort, they had also conferred "a place for a parsonage and garden." On the latter being improved in all the formal stiffness of cut box and trimmed cedar, presenting tops nodding to tops, and each alley like its brother, the

whole so like Holland itself, it became attractive to the public gaze, and so gave popular acceptance to the name of "Garden Alley." The first church of St. Nicholas, though long under the care of its tutelary saint, fell at last a prey to the flames in the fire of 1791.

The Rev. Mr. Bogardus above named, though intended as an example himself, could not keep his wife exempt from reproach, or from the vigilance of an "evil eye;" for on the 24th October, 1633, (it is still on record at Albany) a certain Hendricks Jansen (a sapient reformer no doubt) appeared before the secretary, and certified that the wife of the Rev. E. Bogardus, in the public street, drew up her petticoat *a little way!*" Surely this was an idle scandal when Dutch petticoats were of themselves too short to cover, even if the matron would.

GARDENS, FARMS, &c.

"Yes, he can e'en replace agen,
The *forests* as he knew them *then!*"

Mr. Abram Brower, aged seventy-five, says, in his youth he deemed himself "out of town" about where now stands the Hospital on Broadway. Blackberries were then so abundant as never to have been *sold.*

Jones had a "Ranalagh Garden" near the Hospital;

and "Vauxhall Garden," where they exhibited fireworks, was at the foot of Warren street.

At Corlear's Hook all was in a state of woods, and it was usual to go there to drink mead.

The *first* "Drovers' Inn," kept so near the city, was a little above St. Paul's church—kept by Adam Vanderbarrack, [spelt Vanderbergh by D. Grim, who said he had also a *farm* there.]

Bayard's spring, in his woods, was a place of great resort of afternoons; it was a very charming spring, in the midst of abundance of hickory nut trees; tradesmen went there after their afternoon work. It lay just beyond Canal street, say on south side present Spring street, not far from Varrick street.

In the year 1787, Col. Ramsay, then in Congress, considered himself as living "out in the country" at the "White Conduit house," situate between Leonard and Franklin streets.

"Tea Water Pump Garden," celebrated for its excellent pump of water, situate on Chatham street near to Pearl street, was deemed a "far walk." It was fashionable to go there to drink punch, &c.

A real farm house *in the city*, stood as an ancient relic until eight years ago, in such a central spot as the corner of Pine and Nassau streets. Mr. Thorburn saw it, and was told so by its ancient owner.

The old Dutch records sufficiently show, that in primitive days all the rear of the town was cast into farms, say six in number, called "Bouwerys;" from whence we have "Bowery" now. Van Twiller himself had his mansion on farm No. 1, and his tobacco field on No. 3. No. 1 is supposed by Mr. Moulton's book, to have been "from Wall street to Hudson street;" and No. 3,

"at Greenwich, then called Tapohanican." No. 4 was near the plain of Manhattan, including the Park to the Kolck; and No. 5 and 6 to have lain still farther to the northward.

The ancient *bon-vivants* remember still "Lake's Hermitage" as a place of great regale; the house and situation is fine even now; situated now near the sixth avenue, quite in the country, but then approached only through "Love Lane."

The ancient mansion and farm out on the East River, at the head of King's Road, once the stately establishment of Dr. Gerardus Beekman, is made peculiarly venerable for the grandeur of its lofty and aged elms and oaks; its rural aspect and deep shade attracted the notice of Irving's pen. It was used too as the selected country residence of General Clinton in the time of the war.

Robert Murray's farm-house in this neighbourhood should be venerable from its associations. There his patriot lady entertained Gen. Howe and his staff with refreshments, after their landing with the army at "Kips' Bay," on purpose to afford Gen. Putnam time to lead off his troops in retreat from the city, which he effected. She was a Friend, and the mother of the celebrated Lindley Murray.

The garden of "Aunt Katey," and called also "Katey Mutz," was spoken of by every aged person, and was peculiarly notable as a "Mead Garden." It was called by some "Windmill Hill," in reference to its earlier use; and also "Gallows Hill" by others, as once a place of execution. Its location was on "Janeway's farm," about the spot where is now the Chatham Theatre. A part of the garden met the line of the ancient

palisades. The whole hill, which was large, extended from Duane down to Pearl street, along the line of Chatham street; near her place was once "the City Gate." "Soft waffles and tea" were the luxuries there, in which some of the gentry then most indulged.

The angle whereon the Park Theatre now stands, belonged originally to the square of the Park; that corner of the square was once called "the Governor's Garden," (so David Grim said) in reference to such an intended use of it.

A garden of note was kept vis a vis the Park, where is now Peale's museum, and named "Montagne's Garden." There the "Sons of Liberty," so called, convened.

A drawing of the Collect as it stood about year 1750, done by David Grim, which I saw with his daughter Mrs. Myers, places a *garden* at the west side of the *little* Collect, which he separates from the big or main Collect by an elevated knoll, like an island, on which he marks the Magazine, and a negro hanging in gibbets; between this knoll and the big Collect is drawn a *marsh*; a winding *road* is marked along the south side of the little Collect.

REMARKABLE FACTS AND INCIDENTS.

——— "To strike our marvelling eyes,
Or move our special wonder."

In the year 1735, animosity ran pretty high between the military governor and his council on the one part, and the mayor and council on the other part. On this occasion, *Zanger* the printer, took the part of the latter, which was considered "vox populi" also; the consequence was, he was put under arrest and trial. The popular excitement was strong, and feelings extended even to Philadelphia. Andrew Hamilton, there a celebrated lawyer and civilian, volunteered to aid Zanger, and went on to New-York, and there effected his deliverance with great triumph. Grateful for this, the corporation of the city voted him "a golden snuff-box with many classical inscriptions, and within they enclosed him the freedom of the city." The box might now be a curiosity to see.

I was shown the locality of an incident which has had more readers than any other popular tale of modern times. No. 24 on Bowery road, is a low wooden house, the same from which the heroine of "Charlotte Temple" was seduced by a British officer. The facts were stated to me, and the place shown by Dr. F.

In 1769 was a time of fierce and contentious election for Assemblymen; the poll was kept open for four days; no expense was spared by the candidates; the friends of each party kept open houses in every ward,

where all regaled and partook to the full; all citizens left off their usual business; there were only 1515 electors, of which 917 were freeholders; all non-resident voters were sought for earnestly in the country and brought to the city polls. John Cruger, James Delancey, Jacob Walton, and John Jauncey, were the successful candidates by majorities generally of 250 to 270 votes.

On an occasion of election, Mr. Alexander M'Dougal (afterwards Gen. M'D.) was the author of an address "to the public," signed "Legion," wherein he invoked the public assembling of the people at the fields near De la Montagne's, (which is in modern parlance in the Park, near Peale's museum) "in order effectually to avert the evil of the late base, inglorious conduct by our general assembly, who, in opposition to the loud and general call of their constituents and of sound policy, and to the glorious struggle for our birthrights, have dared to vote supplies to the troops without a shadow of pretext. Therefore, let every friend to his country then appear."

For this stirring appeal M'Dougal was taken under arrest by the Sergeant at Arms of the Assembly, who placed him in the county gaol. While he was there confined, forty-five persons, "Sons of Liberty," (for "forty-five" was a talesmanic number then) went to visit him in prison, to salute and cheer him. Not long after, "forty-five" female "Sons of Liberty," headed by Mrs. Malcomb, (wife of the general) made their visit also to cheer the state prisoner, and to applaud "his noble conduct in the cause of liberty." It was this leaven that was carrying on the fermentation thus early for the revolution.

The gaining of the election caused the New-Yorkers, in 1770, to recede from their non-importation covenants, and the Whigs of Philadelphia resolved to buy nothing of them "while governed by a faction."

The winter of 1755 was so peculiary mild, that the navigation of the North River kept open all the season. Mr. David Grim saw, from that cause, Sir Peter Hackett's and Col. Dunbar's regiment go up the river to Albany in that winter.

The river of 1779–80, on the other hand, was the extreme of cold, producing "the hard winter." Two great cakes of ice closed up the North River from Paulus Hook ferry to Courtlandt street. Hundreds then crossed daily. Artillery, and sleds of provisions, were readily passed over: and even heavy artillery was borne over the frozen bridge to Staten Island.

My friend James Bogert, then a small lad, was with his uncle, the *first* persons who were ever known to have crossed the East river on the ice, at or near Hell Gate.

The winters of 1740–1, 1764–5, 1799–80, and 1820–1, formed the four severest winters in 100 years; and were the only winters in which the North River could be crossed on the ice. The cold on the 25th Jan. 1821, was *seven* degrees below zero; being one degree lower than any former record. The cold in January 1765, was at *six* degrees below *zero*.

> "Then the parching air burnt frore,
> And cold performed *the effect of fire!*"

I saw in the Historical Society Library, something very rare to be found in this country: they are sixteen volumes folio of Mss. Journals of the House of Com-

mons, in Cromwell's reign, say from 1650 to 1675, said to have been presented through the family of the late Governor Livingston. I suspect, however, they came through the family of Governor Williamson, because a great part of Col. De Hart's library went by will to De Hart Williamson in 1801. Mrs. D. Logan had before told me of having seen those volumes in the possession of Col. De Hart, of Morristown, N. J. about the year 1800. She could not learn how they came into this country, although she found it was believed they were abducted by some of Cromwell's friends (who went out first to New England, and afterwards settled near Morristown) to prevent their use against those who might remain in England. Their ample margins had been partially used by a commanding officer of our army there, when paper was scarce, to write his orders!

Captain Kidd, the celebrated pirate, was once married and settled at New-York. As the trial of Kidd, which I have seen and preserved, states, on the authority of Col. Livingston, that he had a wife and child then in New-York, my inquiring mind has sometimes, looking among the multitude, said, Who knows, but some of these are Kidd's descendants? I observe, however, that the name is not in the New-York Directory; Col. Livingston recommended him to the crown officers "as a bold and honest man." He had probably been a privateersman aforetime out of New-York, as we find the records there stating that he there paid his fees (in 1691) to the governor and to the king. Another record also states some process against one of his seamen, as deserted from him.

In 1695 he arrived at New-York from England, with the king's commission, and soon after began and

continued his piracies for four years. In 1699 he again arrived within the Long Island Sound, and made several deposits on the shore of that island. Being decoyed to Boston, he was arrested, sent to England, and executed at Execution Dock on the 23d March 1701.

To this day it is the traditionary report that the family of J——— at Oyster Bay, and of C——— at Huntington, are enriched by Kidd's spoils, they having been in his service, *by force it is presumed*, and made their escape at Long Island at Eaton-neck, which gave them the power afterwards of attaining "the deposits" above referred to. Both J——— and C——— became strangely rich.

The records of Philadelphia show that, contemporaneous with this time, "one Shelly, from New-York, has greatly infested our navigation with Kidd's pirates."

In 1712 a pirate brigantine appeared off Long Island, commanded by one Lowe, a Bostonian; he was a successful fellow, had captured Honduros. About same time one Evans also comes on the coast.

The next year two pirates looked into Perth Amboy and New-York itself.

Lowe commanded the "Merry Christmas," of 330 tons, and his consort was commanded by one Harris. [Another pirate, Captain Sprigg, called his vessel "the Bachelor's Delight."] They bore a black flag; while off the Hook, they were engaged by the Greyhound of his Majesty's navy. He captured the least of them, having on board as prisoners thirty-seven whites and six blacks; all of whom were tried and executed at Rhode Island, and all bearing our common English names. Captain Solgard, who thus conquered, was presented with the freedom of the city in a gold snuff-

box. Lowe, in indignation, afterwards became cruel to Englishmen, cutting and slitting their noses. He had on board during the fight, as the prisoners told, £150,000 in silver and gold.

The gazettes of this period teem with their adventures. In that time the public mind was engrossed with the dread of them, and they had accomplices often on shore to aid them and divide the spoil.

In 1724 William Bradford, in New-York, publishes the general history of the pirates, including two women, Mary Reed and Anne Bonny. Much we should like now to see that work.

APPAREL.

> "We run through every change, which fancy
> At the loom has genius to supply."

THERE is a very marked and wide difference between our moderns and the ancients in their several views of appropriate dress. The latter, in our judgment of them, were always stiff and formal, unchanging in their cut and fit in the gentry, or negligent and rough in texture in the commonalty; whereas the moderns, casting off all former modes and forms, and inventing every new device which fancy can supply, just please the wearers "while the fashion is at full."

It will much help our just conceptions of our forefathers and their good dames, to know what were their

personal appearances. To this end, some facts illustrative of their attire will be given. Such as it was among the gentry, was a constrained and pains-taking service, presenting nothing of ease and gracefulness in the use. While we may wonder at its adoption and long continuance, we will hope never again to see its return. But who can hope to check or restrain *fashion*, if it should chance again to set that way; or who can forsee that the next generation may not be more stiff and formal than any which has passed, since we see, even now, our late graceful and easy habits of both sexes already partially supplanted by "monstrous novelty and strange disguise!" Men and women stiffly corsetted; long unnatural looking waists; shoulders and breasts stuffed and deformed as Richard's, and artificial hips; protruding garments of as ample folds as claimed the ton when senseless hoops prevailed.

A gentleman of 80 years of age has given me his recollections of the costumes of his early days to this effect, to wit:—Men wore three-square or cocked hats, and wigs; coats with large cuffs, big skirts lined and stiffened with buckram. None ever saw a crown higher than the head. The coat of a beau had three or four large plaits in the skirts, wadding almost like a coverlet to keep them smooth; cuffs very large, up to the elbows, open below and inclined down, with lead therein; the capes were thin and low, so as readily to expose the close plaited neck-stock of fine linen cambric, and the large silver stock-buckle on the back of the neck; shirts with hand-ruffles, sleeves finely plaited, breeches close fitted, with silver, stone, or paste gem buckles; shoes or pumps with silver buckles of various sizes and patterns; thread, worsted, and silk stockings;

the poorer class wore sheep and buckskin breeches close set to the limbs. Gold and silver sleeve buttons, set with stones or paste of various colours and kinds, adorned the wrists of the shirts of all classes. The very boys often wore wigs; and their dresses in general were similar to those of the men.

The women wore caps, (a bare head was never seen) stiff stays, hoops from six inches to two feet on each side; so that a full dressed lady entered a door like a crab, pointing her obtruding flanks end foremost; high healed shoes of black stuff, with white cotton or thread stockings; and in the miry times of winter they wore clogs, gala shoes, or pattens.

The days of stiff coats, sometimes wire-framed, and of large hoops, was also stiff and formal in manners at set balls and assemblages. The dances of that day among the politer class were minuets, and sometimes country dances; among the lower order hipsesaw was every thing.

As soon as the wigs were abandoned and the natural hair was cherished, it became the mode to dress it by plaiting it, by queuing and clubbing, or by wearing it in a black silk sack or bag, adorned with a large black rose.

In time, the powder with which wigs and the natural hair had been severally adorned, was run into disrepute only about 28 to 30 years ago, by the then strange innovation of "Brutus heads;" not only then discarding the long-cherished powder and perfume, and tortured frizzle-work, but also literally becoming "round heads" by cropping off all the pendant graces of ties, bobs, clubs, queus, &c. The hardy beaux who first encountered public opinion by appearing abroad unpowdered and

cropt, had many starers. The old men for a time obstinately persisted in adherence to the old regime; but death thinned their ranks, and use and prevalence of numbers at length gave countenance to modern usage.

From various reminiscents we glean, that laced ruffles, depending over the hand, was a mark of indispensible gentility. The coat and breeches were generally desirable of the same material—of "broad cloth" for winter and of silk camlet for summer. No kind of cotton fabrics were then in use or known. Hose were therefore of thread or silk in summer, and fine worsted in winter; shoes were square-toed, and were often "double channelled." To these succeeded sharp toes, as piked as possible. When wigs were universally worn, grey wigs were powdered; and for that purpose set in a wooden box frequently to the barber to be dressed on his block-head. But "brown wigs," so called, were exempted from the white disguise. Coats of red cloth, even by boys, were considerably worn; and plush breeches and plush vests of various colours, shining and smooth, were in common use. Everlasting, made of worsted, was a fabric of great use for breeches, and sometimes for vests. The vest had great depending pocket flaps, and the breeches were short above the stride, because the art, since devised, of suspending them by suspenders, was then unknown. It was then the test and even the pride of a well-formed man, that he could by his natural form readily keep his breeches above the hips, and his stockings, without gartering, above the calf of his leg. With the queus belonged frizzled sidelocks and *tout pies*, formed of the natural hair, or, in defect of a long tie, a splice was added to it. Such was the general passion for the longest possible whip of hair,

that sailors and boatmen, to make it grow most, used to tie theirs in eel skins. Nothing like surtouts were known; but they had coating or cloth great coats, or blue cloth and brown camlet cloaks, with green baize lining to the latter. In the time of the American war, many of the American officers introduced the use of Dutch blankets for great coats. The sailors used to wear hats of glazed leather, or woollen thrums called chapeaus; and their "small clothes" as we would now call them, were immensely wide "petticoat-breeches." The working men in the country wore the same form, having no falling flaps, but slits in front; and they were so full in girth, that they ordinarily changed the rear to the front when the seat became prematurely worn out. At the same time numerous working men and boys, and all tradesmen, wore leather breeches and leather aprons.

Some of the peculiarities of the female dress were these, to wit: Ancient ladies are still alive, who often had had their hair tortured for hours at a sitting in getting up for a dress occasion, the proper crisped curls of a hair curler. This formidable outfit of head work was next succeeded by "rollers," over which the hair was combed above the forehead. These again were superseded by "cushions" and artificial curled work, which could be sent to the barber's block, like a wig, "to be dressed," leaving the lady at home to pursue other objects.

When the ladies first began to lay off their cumbrous hoops, they supplied their place with successive substitutes, such as these, to wit: first came "bishops," a thing stuffed or padded with horse hair; then succeeded a smaller affair, under the name of *Cue de Paris*, also padded with horse hair. How it abates our admiration

of the "lovely sex" to contemplate them as bearing a roll of horse hair under their garments! An old satire said,

> "Thus finish'd in taste, while on her you gaze,
> You may take the dear charmer for life,
> But never undress her, for out of her stays,
> You'll find you have lost half your wife."

Next they supplied their place with silk or calimanco, or russell thickly quilted and inlaid with wool, made into petticoats; then these were supplanted by a substitute of half a dozen of petticoats. No wonder such ladies needed fans in a sultry summer, and at a time when parasols were unknown, to keep off the solar rays. I knew a lady going to a gala party, who had so large a hoop, that when she sat in the chaise, she so filled it up that the person who drove it (it had no top) stood up behind the box and directed the reins.

Some of those ancient belles, who thus sweltered under the weight of six petticoats, have lived now to see their posterity, not long since, go so thin and transparent, *a la Francaise*, especially when between the beholder and a declining sun, as to make a modest eye sometimes instinctively avert its gaze.

Among some other articles of female wear we may name the following, to wit: Once they wore a "skimmer hat," made of a fabric which shone like silver tinsel; it was of a very small flat crown and big brim, not unlike the present Leghorn flats. Another hat, not unlike it in shape, was made of woven horse hair, wove in flowers, and called "horse hair bonnets," an article which might be again usefully introduced for children's wear as an enduring hat for long service. I have seen

what was called a bath-bonnet, made of black satin, and so constructed to lay in folds that it could be set upon like a chapeau bras ; a good article now for travelling ladies. "The mush-mellon" bonnet, used before the revolution, had numerous whalebone stiffeners in the crown, set at an inch apart in parallel lines, and presenting ridges to the eye, between the bones. The next bonnet was the "whalebone bonnet," having only the bones in the front as stiffeners. "A calash bonnet" was always formed of green silk ; it was worn abroad, covering the head, but when in rooms it could fall back in folds like the springs of a calash or gig top ; to keep it up over the head it was drawn up by a cord always held in the hand of the wearer. The "wagon bonnet," always of black silk, was an article exclusively in use among the Friends, was deemed to look, on the head, not unlike the top of the "Jersey wagons," and having a pendent piece of like silk hanging from the bonnet and covering the shoulders. The only straw wear was that called the "straw beehive bonnet," worn generally by old people.

The ladies once wore "hollow breasted stays," which were exploded as injurious to the health. Then came the use of straight stays. Even little girls wore such stays. At one time the gowns worn had no fronts ; the design was to display a finely quilted Marseilles, silk or satin petticoat, and a worked stomacher on the waist. In other dresses a white apron was the mode ; all wore large pockets under their gowns. Among the caps was the "queen's night cap," the same always worn by Lady Washington. The "cushion headdress" was of gauze, stiffened out in cylindrical form

with white spiral wire. The border of the cap was called the balcony.

A lady of my acquaintance thus describes the recollections of her early days preceding the war of Independence. Dress was discriminative and appropriate, both as regarded the season and the character of the wearer. Ladies never wore the same dresses at work and on visits; they sat at home, or went out in the morning, in chints; brocades, satins, and mantuas were reserved for evening or dinner parties. Robes or negligées, as they were called, were always worn in full dress. Muslins were not worn at all. Little Misses at a dancing-school ball (for these were almost the only fetes that fell to their share in the days of discrimination) were dressed in frocks of lawn or cambric. Worsted was then thought dress enough for common days.

As a universal fact, it may be remarked that no other colour than black was ever made for ladies' bonnets when formed of silk or satin. Fancy colours were unknown, and white bonnets of silk fabric had never been seen. The first innovation remembered was the bringing in of blue bonnets.

The time was when the plainest women among the Friends (now so averse to fancy colours) wore their coloured silk aprons, say, of green, blue, &c. This was at a time when the gay wore white aprons. In time white aprons were disused by the gentry, and then the Friends left off their coloured ones and used the white. The same old ladies among Friends, whom we can remember as wearers of the white aprons, wore also large white beaver hats with scarcely the sign of a crown, and which was indeed confined to the head by silk cords tied under the chin. Eight dollars would buy such a

hat when beaver fur was more plentiful. They lasted such ladies almost a whole life of wear. They showed no fur.

In the former days, it was not uncommon to see aged persons with large silver buttons to their coats and vests; it was a mark of wealth. Some had the initials of their names engraved on each button. Sometimes they were made out of real quarter dollars, with the coinage impression still retained; these were used for the coats, and the eleven-penny-bits for vests and breeches. My father wore an entire suit decorated with conch-shell buttons, silver mounted.

On the subject of wigs, I have noticed the following special facts, to wit:—They were as generally worn by genteel Friends as by any other people. This was the more surprising, as they religiously professed to exclude all superfluities, and yet nothing could have been offered to the mind as so essentially useless.

In 1737 the perukes of the day, as then sold, were thus described, to wit:—"Tyes, bobs, majors, spencers, fox-tails, and twists, together with curls or tates (têtes) for the ladies."

In the year 1765 another peruke-maker advertises prepared hair for judges' full bottomed wigs, tyes for gentlemen of the bar to wear over their hair, brigadiers, dress bobs, bags, cues, scratches, cut wigs, &c.; and to accommodate ladies he has tates (têtes) towers, &c. At same time a stay maker advertises cork stays, whalebone stays, jumps, and easy caushets, thin boned Misses' and ladies' stays, and pack thread stays.

Some of the advertisements of the olden time present some curious descriptions of masquerade attire, such as these, viz:—

Year 1722—run away, a servant clothed with damask breeches and vest, black broad-cloth vest, a broad-cloth coat of copper colour, lined and trimmed with black, and wearing black stockings. Another servant is described as wearing leather breeches and glass buttons, black stockings, and a wig.

In 1724 a run-away barber is thus dressed, viz:—wore a light wig, a grey kersey jacket lined with blue, a light pair of drugget breeches, black roll-up stockings, square-toed shoes, a red leathern apron. He had also a white vest and yellow buttons, with red linings.

Another run-away servant is described as wearing "a light short wig," aged 20 years; his vest white, with yellow buttons and faced with red.

A poetic effusion of a lady of 1725, describing her paramour, thus designates the dress which most seizes upon her admiration as a ball guest:—

> "Mine, a tall youth shall at a ball be seen
> Whose legs are like the spring, all cloth'd in green:
> A yellow riband ties his long cravat,
> And a large knot of yellow cocks his hat."

A gentleman of Cheraw, South Carolina, has now in his possession an ancient cap, worn in the colony of New Netherlands about 150 years ago, such as may have been worn by some of the chieftains among the Dutch rulers set over us. The crown is of elegant yellowish brocade, the brim of crimson silk velvet, turned up to the crown. It is elegant even now.

In the year 1749 I met with the incidental mention of a singular overcoat worn by Capt. James as a storm coat, made entirely of beaver fur, wrought together in the manner of felting hats.

Before the revolution no hired men or women wore any shoes so fine as calf skin, that kind was the exclusive property of the gentry; the servants wore coarse neats-leather. The calf skin shoe then had a white rand of sheep skin stitched into the top edge of the sole, which they preserved white as a dress shoe as long as possible.

It was very common for children and working women to wear beads made of Job's-tears, a berry of a shrub. They used them for economy, and said it prevented several diseases.

Until the period of the revolution, every person who wore a fur hat had it always of entire beaver. Every apprentice, at receiving his "freedom," received a real beaver at a cost of six dollars. Their every-day hats were of wool, and called felts. What were called roram hats, being fur faced upon wool felts, came into use directly after the peace, and excited much surprise as to the invention. Gentlemen's hats, of entire beaver, universally cost eight dollars.

The use of lace veils to ladies' faces is but a modern fashion, not of more than twenty to thirty years standing. Now they wear black, white, and green; the last only lately introduced as a summer veil. In olden time none wore a veil but as a mark and badge of mourning, and then, as now, of crape, in preference to lace.

Ancient ladies remembered a time in their early life when the ladies wore blue stockings and party-coloured clocks of very striking appearance. May not that fashion, as an extreme ton of the upper circle in life, explain the adoption of the term "Blue stocking Club?" I have seen with S—— C——, Esq. the wedding silk

stockings of his grandmother, of a lively green, and great red clocks. My grandmother wore in winter very fine worsted green stockings, with a gay clock surmounted with a bunch of tulips.

Even spectacles, permanently useful as they are, have been subjected to the caprice of fashion. Now they are occasionally seen of gold—a thing I never saw in my youth; neither did I ever see one young man with spectacles—now so numerous. A purblind or half-sighted youth then deemed it his positive disparagement to be so regarded. Such would have rather run against a street post six times a-day than have been seen with them. Indeed, in early olden time they had not the art of using temple spectacles. In early years the only spectacles ever used were called "bridge spectacles," without any side supporters, and held on the nose solely by nipping the bridge of the nose.

My grandmother wore a black velvet mask in winter with a silver mouth-piece to keep it on, by retaining it in the mouth. I have been told that green ones have been used in summer for some few ladies, for riding in the sun on horseback.

Ladies formerly wore cloaks as their chief overcoats; they were used with some changes of form under the successive names of roquelaus, capuchins, and cardinals.

In the old time, shagreen-cased watches, and turtle shell and pinchbeck, were the earliest kind seen; but watches of any kind were much more rare then. When they began to come into use, they were so far deemed a matter of pride and show, that men are living who have heard public Friends express their concern at seeing their youth in the show of watches or watch chains. It

was so rare to find watches in common use, that it was quite an annoyance at the watchmakers to be so repeatedly called on by street-passengers for the hour of the day. Gold chains would have been a wonder then; silver and steel chains and seals were the mode, and regarded good enough. The best gentlemen of the country were content with silver watches, although gold ones were occasionally used. Gold watches for ladies was a rare occurrence, and when worn, were kept without display for domestic use.

The men of former days never saw such things as our Mahomedan whiskers on christian men.

The use of boots have come in since the war of Independence; they were first with black tops, after the military, strapped up in union with the knee bands; afterwards bright tops were introduced. The leggings to these latter were made of buckskin for some extreme beaux, for the sake of close fitting a well-turned leg.

It having been the object of these pages to notice the change of the fashions in the habiliments of men and women from the olden to the modern time, it may be necessary to say, that no attempt has been made to note the quick succession of modern changes, precisely because they are too rapid and evanescent for any useful record. The subject, however, leads me to the general remark, that the general character of our dress is always ill adapted to our climate; and this fact arises from our national predilection as English. As English colonists we early introduced the modes of our British ancestors. They derived their notions of dress from France; and we, even now, take all annual fashions from the ton of England;—a circumstance which leads us into many unseasonable and injurious imitations, very ill adapted

to either our hotter or colder climate. Here we have the extremes of heat and cold. There they are moderate. The loose and light habits of the east, or of southern Europe, would be better adapted to the ardour of our midsummers; and the close and warm apparel of the north of Europe might furnish us better examples for our severe winters.

But in these matters (while enduring the profuse sweating of 90 degrees of heat) we fashion after the modes of England, which are adapted to a climate of but 70 degrees. Instead, therefore, of the broad slouched hat of southern Europe, we have the narrow brim, a stiff stock or starched-buckram collar for the neck, a coat so close and tight as if glued to our skins, and boots so closely set over our insteps and ancles, as if over the lasts on which they were made. Our ladies have as many ill adapted dresses and hats; and sadly their healths are impaired in our rigorous winters, by their thin stuff-shoes and transparent and light draperies, affording but slight defence for tender frames against the cold.

Mr. A. B. aged 75, told me the following facts, viz:

Boots were rarely worn, never as an article of dress; chiefly when seen they were worn on hostlers and sailors; the latter always wore great petticoat trowsers, coming only to the knee and there tying close; common people wore their clothes much longer than now; they patched their clothes much and long; a garment was only "half worn" when it became broken.

The first umbrellas he ever knew worn, were by the British officers, and were deemed effeminate in them. Parasols, as guards from the sun, were not seen at all. As a defence from rain, the men wore "rain coats," and

the women, "camblets." It was a common occurrence to see servants running in every direction with these on their arms, to churches, if an unexpected rain came up. As a defence in winter from storms, the men wore "great coats" daily. It was a general practice (as much so as moving on the first of May,) to put on these coats on the tenth of November, and never disuse them till the tenth of May following.

Gentlemen of the true Holland race, wore very long body coats, the skirts reaching down nearly to the ancles, with long and broad wastes, and with wide and stiff skirts; they wore long flaps to their vests; their breeches were not loose and flowing, although large, but were well filled up with interior garments, giving name to the thing as well as to families, in the appellation of Mynheer Ten Brœck.

A female child of six years, in full dignity of dress, was attired thus, viz:—a white cap of transparent texture, setting smooth and close to the head; on the left side of it was a white ostrich feather, flattened like a band close to the cap; the cap had a narrow edge of lace. From the neck dropped a white linen collar, with laced edges. A gold chain hung on one shoulder only, and under the opposite arm. A white stomacher, with needle ornaments, and the edges laced. The body braced with stays. A white apron, very full at the top and much plaited, and edged all round with small lace. A silk gown of thick material of dove colour, very full plaited, and giving the idea of large hips; (indeed all the Dutch women affected much rotundity in that way.) Broad lace was sewn close to the gown sleeves, along the length of the seam on the inside curve of the arms, so as to cover the seam. The sleeve cuffs were of

white lace, large, and turned up. This picture from life was given by an artist who understood the detail.

Mrs. M'Adams, a venerable lady whom I saw at the age of ninety-three, spoke of a circumstance occurring in New-York in 1757, respecting Gen. Gates' first wife: she was generally reported as riding abroad in *men's clothes*, solely from the circumstance of her wearing a riding habit after the manner of English ladies, where she had been born and educated. It proved that the manners of the times did not admit of such female display, and perhaps it was more masculine than we now see them on ladies.

The price of fine cloth before the revolution, was "a guinea a yard;" and all men, save the most refined, expected, after wearing it well on one side, to have it vamped up new as a "turned coat." Among common men, the practice was universal. Thus showing how much *better* then cloths were than now, in durability.

FURNITURE AND EQUIPAGE.

"Dismiss a real elegance a little used,
For monstrous novelty and strange disguise."

The tide of fashion, which overwhelms every thing in its onward course, had almost effaced every trace of what our forefathers possessed or used in the way of household furniture or travelling equipage. Since the year 1800, the introduction of foreign luxury, caused

by the influx of wealth, has been yearly effecting successive changes in those articles, so much so that the former simple articles which contented, as they equally served the purposes of, our forefathers, could hardly be conceived. Such as they were, they descended acceptably unchanged from father to son and son's son, and presenting, at the era of our Independence, precisely the same family picture which had been seen in the earliest annals of the town.

Formerly there were no side-boards, and when they were first introduced after the revolution, they were much smaller and less expensive than now. Formerly they had couches of worsted damask, and only in very affluent families, in lieu of what we now call sophas or lounges. Plain people used settees and settles,—the latter had a bed concealed in the seat, and by folding the top of it outwards to the front, it exposed the bed and widened the place for the bed to be spread upon it. This, homely as it might now be regarded, was a common sitting room appendage, and was a proof of more attention to comfort than display. It had, as well as the settee, a very high back of plain boards, and the whole was of white pine, generally unpainted and whitened well with unsparing scrubbing. Such was in the poet's eyes when pleading for his sopha,—

> "But restless was the seat, the back erect
> Distress'd the weary loins that felt no ease."

They were a very common article in very good houses, and were generally the proper property of the oldest members of the family, unless occasionally used to stretch the weary length of tired boys. They were placed before the fire-places in the winter to keep the

back guarded from wind and cold. Formerly there were no windsor chairs; and fancy chairs are still more modern. Their chairs of the genteelest kind were of mahogany or red walnut, (once a great substitute for mahogany in all kinds of furniture, tables, &c.) or else they were of rush bottoms, and made of maple posts and slats, with high backs and perpendicular. Instead of japanned waiters as now, they had mahogany tea boards and round tea tables, which, being turned on an axle underneath the centre, stood upright like an expanded fan or palm leaf, in the corner. Another corner was occupied by a beaufet, which was a corner closet with a glass door, in which all the china of the family and the plate were intended to be displayed for ornament as well as use. A conspicuous article in the collection was always a great china punch bowl, which furnished a frequent and grateful beverage,—for wine drinking was then much less in vogue. China tea cups and saucers were about half their present size; and china tea pots and coffee pots, with silver nozzles, was a mark of superior finery. The sham of plated ware was not then known, and all who showed a silver surface had the massive metal too. This occurred in the wealthy families in little coffee and tea pots; and a silver tankard for good sugared toddy, was above vulgar entertainment. Where we now use earthern-ware, they then used delf-ware imported from England; and instead of queens-ware (then unknown), pewter platters and porringers, made to shine along a "dresser," were universal. Some, and especially the country people, ate their meals from wooden trenchers. Gilded looking-glasses and picture frames of golden glare were unknown; and both, much smaller than

now, were used. Small pictures painted on glass, with black mouldings for frames, with a scanty touch of gold-leaf in the corners, was the adornment of a parlour. The looking-glasses in two plates, if large, had either glass frames figured with flowers engraved thereon, or was of scalloped mahogany or of Dutch wood scalloped—painted white or black, with here and there some touches of gold. Every householder in that day deemed it essential to his convenience and comfort to have an ample chest of drawers in his parlour or sitting room, in which the linen and clothes of the family were always of ready access. It was no sin to rummage them before company. These drawers were sometimes nearly as high as the ceiling. At other times they had a writing-desk about the centre, with a falling lid to write upon when let down. A great high clock-case, reaching to the ceiling, occupied another corner; and a fourth corner was appropriated to the chimney place. They then had no carpets on their floors and no paper on their walls. The silver-sand on the floor was drawn into a variety of fanciful figures and twirls with the sweeping brush, and much skill and even pride was displayed therein in the devices and arrangement. They had then no argand or other lamps in parlours, but dipt candles, in brass or copper candlesticks, was usually good enough for common use; and those who occasionally used mould candles, made them at home in little tin frames, casting four to six candles in each. A glass lanthern with square sides furnished the entry lights in the houses of the affluent. Bedsteads then were made, if fine, of carved mahogany, of slender dimensions; but, for common purposes, or for the families of good tradesmen, they were of poplar, and always painted

green. It was a matter of universal concern to have them low enough to answer the purpose of repose for sick or dying persons—a provision so necessary for such possible events, now so little regarded by the modern practice of ascending to a bed by steps, like clambering up to a hay mow.

A lady, giving me the reminiscences of her early life, thus speaks of things as they were before the war of Independence:—marble mantels and folding doors were not then known; and well enough we enjoyed ourselves without sophas, carpets, or girandoles.. A white floor sprinkled with clean white sand, large tables and heavy high back chairs of walnut or mahogany, decorated a parlour genteelly enough for any body. Sometimes a carpet, not, however, covering the whole floor, was seen upon the dining room. This was a show-parlour up stairs, not used but upon gala occasions, and then not to dine in. Pewter plates and dishes were in general use. China on dinner tables was a great rarity. Plate, more or less, was seen in most families of easy circumstances, not indeed in all the various shapes that have since been invented, but in massive silver waiters, bowls, tankards, cans, &c. Glass tumblers were scarcely seen. Punch, the most common beverage, was drunk by the company from one large bowl of silver or china; and beer from a tankard of silver.

The use of stoves was not known in primitive times, neither in families nor churches. Their fire-places were as large again as the present, with much plainer mantel-pieces. In lieu of marble plates round the sides and top of the fire-places, it was adorned with china Dutch-tile, pictured with sundry scripture pieces. Doctor Franklin first invented the "open stove," called also "the Frank-

lin stove;" after which, as fuel became scarce, the better economy of the "ten plate stove" was adopted.

The most splendid looking carriage ever exhibited among us, was that used as befitting the character of that chief of men, General Washington, while acting as President of the United States. It was very large, so as to make four horses, at least, an almost necessary appendage. It was occasionally drawn by six horses, Virginia bays. It was cream coloured, globular in its shape, ornamented with cupids supporting festoons, and wreaths of flowers, emblematically arranged along the pannel work;—the whole neatly covered with best coach-glass. It was of English construction.

Some twenty or thirty years before the period of the revolution, the steeds most prized for the saddle were *pacers*, since so odious deemed. To this end the breed was propagated with much care. The Narraganzet pacers of Rhode Island were in such repute that they were sent for, at much trouble and expense, by some few who were choice in their selections. It may amuse the present generation to peruse the history of one such horse, spoken of in the letter of Rip Van Dam of New-York, in the year 1711, which I have seen. It states the fact of the trouble he had taken to procure him such a horse. He was shipped from Rhode Island in a sloop, from which he jumped overboard when under sail and swam ashore to his former home. He arrived at New-York in 14 days passage, much reduced in flesh and spirit. He cost £32, and his freight 50 shillings. This writer, Rip Van Dam, was a great personage, he having been President of the Council in 1731; and on the death of Governor Montgomery that year, he was governor, ex officio, of New-York. His mural monument is now to be seen in St. Paul's church.

Mr. A. B., aged 75, told me that he never saw any carpets on floors, before the revolution; when first introduced, they only covered the floors outside of the chairs around the room; he knew of persons afraid to step on them when they first saw them on floors; some dignified families always had some carpets, but then they got them through merchants as a special importation for themselves. Floors silver sanded in figures, &c. were the universal practice. The walls of houses were not papered, but universally white-washed.

Mahogany was but very seldom used, and when seen was mostly in a desk or "tea-table." The general furniture was made of "billstead," another name for maple.

The first stoves he remembered came into use in his time, and were all open inside in one oblong square; having no baking oven thereto, as was afterwards invented in the "ten plate stoves."

He thinks coaches were very rare; can't think there were more than four or five of them; men were deemed rich to have kept even a chaise. The governor had one coach; Walton had another; Colden, the lieut. governor, had a coach, which was burnt before his window by the mob; Mrs. Alexander had a coach, and Robert Murray, a. Friend, had another, which he called his "leathern conveniency," to avoid the scandal of pride and vain glory.

CHANGES OF PRICES.

"For the money *cheap*—and quite a heap."

It is curious to observe the changes which have occurred in the course of years, both in the supply of common articles sold in the markets, and in some cases, the great augmentation of prices :—for instance, Mr. Brower, who has been quite a chronicle to me in many things, has told me such facts as the following, viz :—he remembered well when abundance of the largest "Blue-Point" oysters could be bought, opened to your hand, for 2*s*. a hundred, such as would now bring from 3 to 4 dollars. Best sea bass were but 2*d*. a lb., now at 8*d*. Sheep-head sold at 9*d*. to 1*s*. 3*d*. a-piece, and will now bring 2 dollars. Rock fish were plenty at 1*s*. a-piece for good ones. Shad were but 3*d*. a-piece. They did not then practice the planting of oysters. Lobsters then were not brought to the market.

Mr. Jacob Tabelee, who is as old as eighty-seven, and of course saw earlier times than the other, has told me sheep-head used to be sold at 6*d*., and the best oysters at only 1*s*. a hundred ; in fact, they did not stop to count them, but gave them in that proportion and rate by the bushel. Rock fish were sold at 3*d*. a pound. Butter was at 8 to 9*d*. Beef by the quarter, in the winter, was at 3*d*. a pound, and by the piece at 4*d*. Fowls were about 9*d*. a piece. Wild fowl were in great abundance. He has bought twenty pigeons in their season for 1*s*. ;

a goose was 2*s.* Oak wood was abundant at 2*s.* the load.

In 1763 the market price of provisions was established by *law*, and published in the gazette; wondrous cheap they were,—viz: a cock turkey, 4*s.*; a hen turkey, 2*s.* 6*d.*; a duck, 1*s.*; a quail, 1½*d.*; a heath hen, 1*s.* 3*d.*; a teal, 6*d.*; a wild goose, 2*s.*; a brandt, 1*s.* 3*d.*; snipe, 1*d.*; butter, 9*d.*; sea bass, 2*d.*; oysters, 2*s.* per bushel; sheep-head and sea bass, 3 coppers per pound; lobsters, 6*d.* per pound; milk, per quart, 4 coppers; clams, 9*d.* per 100; cheese, 4½*d.*

SUPERSTITIONS.

"Stories of spectres dire disturb'd the soul."

The aged men have told me that fortune-tellers and conjurors had a name and an occupation among the credulous; Mr. Brower said he remembered some himself. Blackbeard's and Kidd's money, as pirates, was a talk understood by all. He knew of much digging for it, with spells and incantations, at Corlear's Hook, leaving there several pits of up-turned ground. Dreams and impressions were fruitful causes of stimulating some to thus "try their fortune" or "their luck."

There was a strange story, the facts may yet be recollected by some, of "the haunted house," somewhere out of town; I have understood it was Delancey's.

But a better ascertained case is that of "the screaching woman;" she was a very tall figure, of masculine

dimensions, who used to appear in flowing mantle of pure white at midnight, and stroll down Maiden lane. She excited great consternation among many. A Mr. Kimball, an honest praying man, thought he had no occasion to fear, and as he had to pass that way home one night, he concluded he would go forward as fearless as he could; he saw nothing in his walk before him, but hearing steps fast approaching him behind, he felt the force of terror before he turned to look; but when he had looked, he saw what put all his resolutions to flight—a tremendous white spectre! It was too much; he ran or flew with all his might, till he reached his own house by Peck's Slip and Pearl street, and then, not to lose time, he burst open his door and fell down for a time as dead. He however survived, and always deemed it something preternatural. The case stood thus:—When one Capt. Willet Taylor of the British navy coveted to make some trial of his courage in the matter, he also paced Maiden lane alone at midnight, wrapped like Hamlet in his "inky cloak," with oaken staff beneath. By and bye he heard the sprite full-tilt behind him intending to pass him, but being prepared, he dealt out such a passing blow as made "the bones and nerves to feel," and thus exposed a *crafty man* bent on fun and mischief.

MISCELLANEOUS FACTS.

"All pay contribution to the store he gleans."

The Indians, in the year 1746, came to the city of New-York in a great body, say several hundreds, to hold a conference or treaty with the governor. Their appearance was very imposing; and being the last time they ever appeared there for such purposes, having afterwards usually met the governor at Albany, they made a very strong impression on the beholders. David Grim, then young, who saw them, has left some Mss. memoranda respecting them, which I saw, to this effect:—They were Oneidas and Mohawks; they came from Albany, crowding the North River with their canoes; a great sight so near New-York; bringing with them their squaws and papouses (children); they encamped on the site now Hudson's Square, before St. John's church, then a low sand beach; from thence they marched in solemn train, single file, down Broadway to Fort George, then the residence of the British governor, George Clinton. As they marched, they displayed numerous scalps, lifted on poles by way of flags or trophies, taken from their French and Indian enemies. What a spectacle in a *city!*

In return, the governor and officers of the colonial government, with many citizens, made out a long procession to the Indian camp, and presented them there the usual presents.

The Indians were remembered by Mr. Bogert's grand-

mother to be often encamped at "Cow-foot Hill," a continuation of Pearl street; there they made and sold baskets.

An Indian remains, such as his bones and some ornaments, were lately found in digging at the corner of Wall and Broad streets. Half-Indian Jack died at Hersimus, N. J., on the 2d February, 1831, at the extreme age of 102 years. In the revolutionary war he acted as a spy for the British.

The palisades and block houses erected in 1745, were well remembered by Mr. David Grim. There was then much apprehension from the French and Indians; £8,000 was voted to defray the cost. Mr. Grim said the palisades began at the house now 57 Cherry street, then the last house out on the East River towards Kip's Bay; thence they extended direct to Windmill Hill, [that is, near the present Chatham theatre] and thence in the rear of the poor house to Dominie's Hook at the North River.

The palisades were made of cedar logs, of fourteen feet long and ten inches in diameter: were placed in a trench three feet deep, with loop-holes all along for musketry; having also a breast-work of four feet high and four feet wide. There were also three block houses of about thirty feet square and ten feet high: these had in each six port-holes for cannon; were constructed of logs of eighteen inches thick, and at equi-distances between the three gates of the city, they being placed on each road of the three entrances or outlets; one was in Pearl street, nearly in front of Banker street; the other in rear of the poor house; and the third lay between Church and Chapel streets.

This general description of the line of defence was confirmed to me by old Mr. Tabelee, aged eighty seven. He described one gate as across Chatham street, close to Kate-Mutz's garden, on Windmill Hill. The block house on the North River, he supposed stood about the end of Reed street.

The great fires of '76 and '78 are still remembered with lively sensibility by the old inhabitants. They occurred while the British held possession of the city, and excited a fear at the time that the "American Rebels" had purposed to oust them, by their own sacrifices, like another Moscow. It is, however, believed to have occurred solely from accident. Mr. Brower thought he was well informed by a Mr. Robins, then on the spot, that it occurred from the shavings in a board yard on Whitehall Slip; but Mr. David Grim, in his MSS. notes, with his daughter, is very minute to this effect, saying:—The fire began on the 21st of September, 1776, in a small wooden house on the wharf, near the Whitehall Slip, then occupied by women of ill fame. It began late at night, and at a time when but few of the inhabitants were left in the city, by reason of the presence of the enemy. The raging element was terrific and sublime, it burned up Broadway on both sides until it was arrested on the eastern side by Mr. Harrison's brick house; but it continued to rage and destroy all along the western side to St. Paul's church; thence it inclined towards the North River, (the wind having changed to south-east) until it run out at the water edge a little beyond the Bear Market, say at the present Barclay street.

Trinity church, though standing alone, was fired by the flakes of fire which fell on its steep roof, then so steep that none could stand upon it to put out the fall-

ing embers. But St. Paul's church, equally exposed, was saved, by allowing citizens to stand on its flatter roof and wet it as occasion required.

In this awful conflagration four hundred and ninety-three houses were consumed; generally in that day they were inferior houses to the present, and many of them were of wood.

Several of the inhabitants were restrained from going out to assist at night from a fear they might be arrested as suspicious persons. In fact, several decent citizens were sent to the Provost Guard for examination, and some had to stay there two or three days, until their loyalty could be made out. In one case, even a good loyalist and a decent man, sometimes too much inclined "to taste a drop too much," (a Mr. White) was by misapprehension of his character, and in the excitement of the moment, hung up on a sign post, at the corner of Cherry and Roosevelt streets. Mr. N. Stuyvesant told me he saw a man hanging on his own sign post, probably the same person before referred to by Mr. Grim.

Mr. Grim has given to the Historical Society a topographical map showing the whole line of conflagration.

The next fire, of August, 1778, occurred on Cruger's wharf, and burnt about fifty houses. On that occasion the military took the exclusive management, not suffering the citizen-firemen to control the manner of its extinguishment. It was afterwards ordered by the Commander in Chief that the military should *help*, but *not order*, at the suppression of fires.

The Slips, so called, were originally openings to the river, into which they drove their carts to take out cord wood from vessels. The cause of their several names has been preserved by Mr. D. Grim.

Whitehall Slip took its name from Col. Moore's large white house, or hall; it adjoined the Slip, and was usually called "Whitehall."

Coenties Slip took its name from the *combination* of *two* names—say of Coenract and Jane Ten Eycke—called familiarly Coen and Anties.

The Old Slip was so called, because it was the first or oldest in the city.

Burling's Slip was so called after a respectable family of that name, living once at the corner of Smith's Vly (now Pearl street) and Golden Hill.

Beekman's Slip, after a family once living there.

There was only *one* Slip on the North River side, which was at the foot of Oswego street, now called Liberty street.

Corlear's Hook, which means a point, was originally called Nechtant by the Indians, and was doubtless from its locality a favourite spot with them. There Van Corlear, who was trumpeter at the fort under Van Twiller, had laid out his little farm, which he sold in 1652 to William Beekman, for £750.

The Negro Plot of 1741, was a circumstance of great terror and excitement in its day; aged persons have still very lively traditionary recollections of it. One old man showed me the corner house in Broad street, near the river then, where the chief plotters conspired. Old Mr. Tabelee says, new alarms were frequent after the above was subdued. For a long time in his youth citizens watched every night, and most people went abroad with lanterns.

Mr. David Grim, in his MSS. notices, says, he retained a perfect idea of the thing as it was. He saw the negroes chained to a stake and burned to death. The

place was in a valley, between Windmill Hill, (Chatham theatre) and. Pot-Bakers' Hill, (now Augusta street, about its centre) and in midway of Pearl and Barley streets. At the same place they continued their executions for many years afterwards.

John Hustan, a white man, was one of the principals, and was hung in chains; on a gibbet at the south-east point of H. Rutger's farm on the East River, not ten yards from the present south-east corner of Cherry and Catharine streets. Since then, the crowd of population there has far driven off his "affrighted ghost," if indeed it ever kept its vigils there.

Cæsar, a black man, a principal of the negroes, was also hung in chains, on a gibbet at the south-east corner of the old powder house in Magazine street. Many of those negroes were burnt and hung, and a great number of others were transported to other countries.

We must conceive, that on so dreadful a fear, as a general massacre, (for guns were fired, and "many run to and fro,") the whole scenes of arrest, trial, execution, and criminals long hung in chains, must have kept up a continual feverish excitement, disturbing even the very dreams when sleeping. Thank God, better times have succeeded, and better views to fellow men.

> "I would not have a *slave* to tremble when I wake,
> For all the price of sinews bought and sold!"

Roman Catholics, and the cry of "church and state in danger," was often witnessed on election and other occasions in New-York; also, "*high* and *low* church" were resounded. "No Bishop" could be seen, in capitals, on fences, &c. A man did not dare to avow himself a Catholic, it was odious; a chapel then would

have been pulled down. It used to be said, "John Leary goes once a year to Philadelphia to get absolution."

Hallam's company of players, the first on record, played at New-York in 1754.

William Bradford, fifty years government printer at New-York, died at the age of ninety-four, in the year 1752; he had been printer a few years at Philadelphia in the time of the primitive settlement.

In 1765 two women, named Fuller and Knight, were placed one hour in the pillory for keeping baudy houses. If this were again enforced, would not much of the gaudy livery of some be set down?

A gazette of 1722 hints at the declining whalery along Long Island, saying, "There are but four whales killed on Long Island, and little oil is expected from thence."

But they have, soon after, a generous recompense; for in 1724 it is announced that at Point Judith, in a *pond* there, they took 700,000 bass, loading therewith fifty carts, 1000 horses, and sundry boats.

In the old Potters-field there was formerly a beautiful epitaph on a patriot stranger from England, a Mr. Taylor, who came to join our fortunes, to wit:—

Far from his kindred friends and native skies,
Here mouldering in the dust, poor Taylor lies;
Firm was his mind and fraught with various lore,
And his warm heart was never cold before.
He lov'd his country, and that spot of earth
Which gave a Milton, Hampden, Bradshaw birth;
But when that country—dead to all but gain,
Bow'd her base neck and hugg'd the oppressor's chain,
Lothing the abject scene, he droop'd and sigh'd—
Cross'd the wild waves, and here untimely died.

About the year 1787, there was much excitement in the city of New-York against the whole fraternity of doctors, called "the Doctors' Riot;" it was caused by the people's lively offence at some cases of bodies procured for dissection. The mob gathered to the cry of "down with the Doctors," and so pushed to the houses of some of the leading practitioners; their friends got before them, and precipitate retreat ensued. In the sequel the most obnoxious sought their refuge in the prison, where the police being quelled, there were some violent assaults. Their friends and the friends of the peace, ranged on the prison side, made some defence; Col. Hamilton stood forward as champion, and John Jay was considerably wounded in the head from a stone, thrown from the mob; it laid him up some time.

A singular fact occurred a few years ago, on the occasion of the explosion of Mr. Sand's Powder Magazine at Brooklyn. An aged citizen, then at the Bull's Head Inn at the Bowery, wearing a broad brimmed hat, perceived something like gunpowder showering upon it; the experiment was made on what he gathered thereon, and it ignited! This is accounted for as coming from the explosion, because the wind set strong in that direction, and it is ascertained by firing a fusee over snow, that if it be over-charged, the excess of grains will be found resting upon the snow.

INCIDENTS OF THE WAR AT NEW-YORK.

"this to show
Mankind, the wild deformity of war!"

New-York city having been held during the term of the revolution as a conquered place, and also as the chief military post of British rule, it becomes matter of interest and curiosity to the present generation to revive and contemplate the pictorial images of those scenes and facts which our fathers witnessed in those days of peril and deep emotion. I give such as I could glean.

The spirit of opposition in us began before the revolution actually opened.

The first theatre in Beekman street, (now where stands the house No. 26) was pulled down on a night of entertainment there, by the citizens, generally called "Liberty Boys." The cause arose out of some offence in the play, which was cheered by the British officers present, and hissed and condemned by the mass of the people. Soon after the people seized upon a Press Barge, and drew it through the streets to the park commons, where they burnt it.

After the war had commenced and New-York was expected to be captured, almost all the Whig families, who could sustain the expense, left their houses and homes to seek precarious refuge where they could in the country. On the other hand, after the city was possessed by the British, all the Tory families who felt unsafe in the country made their escape into New-

York for British protection. Painfully, family relations were broken; families as well as the rulers took different sides, and "Greek met Greek" in fierce encounter.

Mr. Brower, who saw the British force land in Kip's Bay as he stood on the Long Island heights, says it was the most imposing sight his eyes ever beheld. The army crossed the East River, in open flat boats, filled with soldiers standing erect; their arms all glittering in the sun beams. They approached the British fleet in Kip's Bay, in the form of a crescent, caused by the force of the tide breaking the intended line of boat after boat. They all closed up in the rear of the fleet, when all the vessels opened a heavy canonade.

I shall herein endeavour to mark the localities of position occupied by the British, especially of residences of distinguished officers, and also of those suffering prison-houses and hospitals where our poor countrymen sighed over their own and their country's wo.

All the Presbyterian churches in New-York were used for military purposes in some form or other. I suspect they were deemed more whiggish in general than some of the other churches. The clergymen of that order were in general throughout the war, said to be zealous to promote the cause of the revolution. The Methodists, on the contrary, then few in number, were deemed loyalists, chiefly from the known loyalism of their founder, Mr. Wesley. Perhaps to this cause it was that the Society in John street enjoyed so much indulgence as to occupy their church for Sunday night service, while the Hessians had it in the morning service for their own chaplains and people.

The British troops were quartered in any empty

houses of the Whigs which might be found. Wherever men were billetted, they marked it.

The Middle Dutch church in Nassau street, was used to imprison 3000 Americans The pews were all gutted out and used as fuel. Afterwards they used it for the British cavalry, wherein they exercised their men, as a riding school; making them leap over raised windlasses. At the same place they often picketed their men, as a punishment, making them bear their weight on their toe on a sharp goad. At the same place, while the prisoners remained there, Mr. Andrew Mercein told me he used to see the "Dead Cart" come every morning, to bear off six or eight of the dead.

The old sugar house, which also adjoined to this church, was filled with the prisoners taken at Long Island; there they suffered much, they being kept in an almost starved condition.

This starving proceeded from different motives; they wished to break the spirit of the prisoners, and to cause their desertion, or to make the war unwelcome to their friends at home. On some occasions, as I shall herein show, the British themselves were pinched for supplies; and on other occasions the commissaries had their own gain to answer, by withholding what they could from the prisoners. I could not find, on inquiry, that Americans in New-York were allowed to help their countrymen unless by stealth. I was told by eye-witnesses of cases, where the wounded came crawling to the openings in the wall, and begging only for one cup of water, and could not be indulged, the sentinels saying, "we are sorry too, but our orders have been, 'suffer no communication in the absence of your officer.'"

The North Dutch church in William street was entirely gutted of its pews, and made to hold 2000 prisoners.

The Quaker meeting in Pearl street was converted into an hospital.

The old French church was used as a prison.

Mr. Thomas Swords told me they used to bury the prisoners on the mount, then on the corner of Grace and Lumber streets. It was an old redoubt.

Cunningham was infamous for his cruelty to the prisoners, even depriving them of life, it is said, for the sake of cheating his king and country by continuing for a time to draw their nominal rations! The prisoners at the Provost, (the present debtors' prison in the Park) were chiefly under his severity, (my father among the number for a time.) It was said he was only restrained from putting them to death, (five or six of them of a night, back of the prison-yard, where was also their graves) by the distress of certain women in the neighbourhood, who, pained by the cries for mercy which they heard, went to the commander-in-chief, and made the case known, with entreaties to spare their lives in future. This unfeeling wretch, it is said, came afterwards to an ignominious end, being executed in England, as was published in Hall and Sellers' paper in Philadelphia. It was there said, that it came out on the trial that he boasted of having killed more of the king's enemies by the use of his *own* means than had been effected by the king's arms!—he having, as it was there stated, used a preparation of arsenic in their flour!

Loring, another commissary of prisoners, was quite another man, and had a pretty good name. Mr. Len-

nox, the other, being now a resident of New-York, I forbear any remarks.

There was much robbing in the city by the soldiery at times. In this, Lord Rawdon's corps and the king's guards were said to have been pre-eminent.

The British cast up a line of entrenchments quite across from Corlear's Hook to Bunker's Hill, on the Bowery road, and placed gates across the road there. The Hessians, under Knyphausen, were encamped on a mount not far from Corlear's Hook.

Mr. Andrew Mercein, who was present in New-York when most of the above-mentioned things occurred, has told me several facts. He was an apprentice with a baker who made bread for the army, and states, that there was a time when provisions, even to their own soldiery, was very limited. For instance, on the occasion of the Cork provision fleet over-staying their time, he has dealt out six penny loaves, as fast as he could hand them, for "a hard half dollar a-piece!" The baker then gave $20 a cwt. for his flour. They had to make oatmeal bread for the navy. Often he has seen 7*s.* a pound given for butter, when before the war it was but 2*d.*

When Cornwallis was in difficulties at York Town, and it became necessary to send him out all possible help, they took the citizens by constraint and enroled them as a militia. In this service Mr. Mercein was also compelled, and had to take his turns at the fort. There they mounted guard, &c. in military attire, just lent to them for the time and required to be returned. The non-commissioned officers were generally chosen as Tories, but often without that condition. Mr. Mercein's serjeant was whiggish enough to have surrender-

ed if he had had the proper chance. There were some independent companies of Tories there.

It was really an affecting sight to see the operations of the final departure of all the king's embarkation; the royal band beat a farewell march. Then to see so many of our countrymen, with their women and children, leaving the lands of their fathers because they took the king's side, going thence to the bleak and barren soil of Nova Scotia, was at least affecting to them. Their hearts said, "My country, with all thy faults I love thee still."

In contrast to this, there followed the entry of our tattered and weather-beaten troops, followed by all the citizens in regular platoons.

> "Oh! one day of such a welcome sight,
> Were worth a whole eternity of lesser years."

Then crowded *home* to their own city, all those who had been abroad, reluctant exiles from British rule; now fondly cherishing in their hearts, "this is *my own*, my native land."

The Hessian troops were peculiarly desirous to desert so as to remain in our country, and hid themselves in every family where they could possibly secure a friend to help their escape. 'Twas a lucky hit for those who succeeded, for they generally got ahead as tradesmen and farmers, and became rich. The loss to England in the "wear and tear" of those Hessians formed a heavy item. It is on record that the Landgrave of Hesse was paid for 15,700 men lost, at £30 a head, £471,000 (being more than two millions of dollars); paid to his agent, Mr. Van Otten, at the bank of England in 1786.

It is estimated that 11,000 of our Americans were interred from the British prisons at the Wallabout, the place of the present Navy Yard. In cutting down the hill for the Navy Yard, they took up as many as thirteen large boxes of human bones; which, being borne on trucks under mourning palls, were carried in procession to Jackson street on Brooklyn height, and interred in a charnel house constructed for the occasion beneath three great drooping willows. There rest the bones of my grandfather, borne from the Stromboll's hospital ship three days after his arrival.

> "Those prison ships where pain and penance dwell,
> Where death in tenfold vengeance holds his reign,
> And injur'd ghosts, there unaveng'd, complain."

Two of the burnt hulks of those ships still remain sunken near the Navy Yard; one in the dock, and one, the Good Hope, near Pinder's Island—all "rotten and old, e'er filled with sighs and groans."

Our ideas of prisons and prisoners, having ourselves been never confined, are two vague and undefined in reading of any given mass of suffering men. To enter into conception and sympathy with the subject, we must individualize our ideas by singling out a single captive; hear *him* talk over his former friends and happy home; see him pennyless, naked, friendless, in pain and sickness, hopeless, sighing for home, yet wishing to end his griefs by one last deep sigh. With Sterne's pathos, see him notch his weary days and nights; see the iron enter his soul; see him dead; then whelmed in pits, neglected and forgotten. Such was the tale, if individually told, of 11,000 of our suffering countrymen at at New-York.

Our officers had far better fare; they had money or credit; could look about and provide for themselves: could contrive to make themselves half gay and sportive occasionally. Capt. Graydon of Philadelphia, who has left us amusing and instructive memoirs of sixty years of his observing life, having been among the officers and men (2,000) captured at fort Washington near New-York, and held prisoners, has left us many instructive pages concerning the incidents at New-York while held by the British, which ought to be read by all those who can feel any interest in such domestic history as I have herein endeavoured to preserve.

Having thus introduced Capt. Graydon to the reader, I shall conclude this article with sundry observations and remarks derived from him, to wit:—

After our capture (says he) we were committed, men and officers, to the custody of young and insolent officers; we were again and again taunted as "cursed rebels," and that we should all be hanged. Repeatedly we were paraded, and every now and then one and another of us was challenged among our *officers* as *deserters*; affecting thereby to consider their common men as good enough for our ordinary subaltern officers. Unfortunately for our pride and self-importance, among those so challenged was here and there a subject fitted to their jibes and jeers. A little squat militia officer, from York county, with dingy clothes the worse for wear, was questioned with "What, sir, is your rank?" when he answered in a chuff and firm tone, "a *keppun sir*;" an answer producing an immoderate laugh among "the haughty Britons." There was also an unlucky militia trooper of the same school, with whom the offi-

cers were equally merry, obliging him to amble about for their entertainment on his old jade, with his odd garb and accoutrements. On being asked what were his duties, he simply answered, "it was to flank a little and bear tidings." It must be admitted, however, that there were, at the same time, several gentlemen of the army into whose hands he afterwards fell, or with whom he had intercourse, who were altogether gentlemanly in their deportment and feelings.

At this beginning period of the war, most things on the American side were coarse and rough. Maryland and Philadelphia county put forward young gentlemen as officers of gallant bearing and demeanor; but New England, and this, then seat of war, was very deficient in such material. In many cases subaltern officers at least could scarcely be distinguished from their men other than by their cockades. It was not uncommon for colonels to make drummers and fifers of their sons. Among such the eye looked around in vain for the leading gentry of the country. Gen. Putnam could be seen riding about in his shirt sleeves, with his hanger over his open vest: and Col. Putnam, his nephew, did not disdain to carry his own piece of meat, saying, as his excuse, "it will show our officers a good lesson of humility." On the whole Capt. Graydon says, "I have in vain endeavoured to account for the very few gentlemen, and men of the world, that *at this time* appeared in arms *from this country*, which might be considered as the cradle of the revolution. There was here and there a young man of decent breeding in the capacity of an Aide-de-Camp or Brigade Major; but any thing above the condition of a clown in the regiments we came in contact with, was truly a rarity." Perhaps the reason

was, that when the people had the choice of their officers, they chose only their equals or comrades. A letter of Gen. Washington to Gen. Lee makes himself merry with such mean officers; and Gen. Schuyler, who was of manly and lofty port, was actually rejected for that reason by the New England troops as their commander. [Vide Marshall's Washington.] Even the Declaration of Independence, when read about this time at the head of the armies, did not receive the most hearty acclamations, though ostensibly cheered for the sake of a favourable report to the world. Some under voices were heard to mutter, "now we have done for ourselves." It was a fact, too, that at this crisis Whigism declined among the higher classes, and their place was seemingly filled up by numbers of inferior people, who were sufficiently glad to show uniforms and epaulettes as gentlemen who had never been so regarded before.

As the prisoners were marched into the city, they disparagingly contrasted with their British guard. Our men had begun to be ragged, or were in thread-bare flimsy garments; whereas every thing on the British soldier was whole and complete. On the road they were met by soldiers, trulls, and others, come out from the city to see "the great surrender of the rebel army." Every eye and every person was busy in seeking out "Mr. Washington." There *he* is, cried half a dozen voices at once. Others assailed them with sneers. When near the city, the officers were separated from the men, and conducted into a church, into which crowded a number of city spectators. There the officers signed paroles, and were permitted afterwards to take their lodgings in the city. The men were confined

in churches and sugar houses, where they suffered much.

The number of American officers who were thus brought into New-York was considerable, and many of them boarded together at Mrs. Carroll's, in Queen-street, a winning cheerful lady, who had enough of influence and acquaintance with Col. Robertson, the commandant of the city, to get hold of a good deal of news calculated to interest and serve her lodgers. In the city at this time were such American officers as *Colonels* Magaw, Miles, Atlee, Allen, Rawlins, &c.; *Majors* West, Williams, Burd, De Courcey, &c.; and *Captains* Wilson, Tudor, Davenport, Forrest, Edwards, Lennox, Herbert, &c.

Such officers took full latitude of their parole, in traversing the streets in all directions with a good deal of purposed assurance. One of them, on one occasion, wearing his best uniform, to the great gaze and wonderment of many, actually ventured disdainfully to pass the Coffee House, then the general resort of the British officers. At other times, when the Kolch water was frozen over, and was covered with British officers, who thought themselves proficients in skating, it was the malicious pleasure of some of our officers to appear and eclipse them all. The officers occasionally met with cordial civilities and genteel entertainment from British officers with whom they came in contact; for, in truth, the latter valued their personal gentility too much to seem to be in any degree deficient in politeness and courtesy when they met with those whom they thought sufficiently polished to appreciate their demeanor. Yet it was obviously the system of the British army to treat them as persons with whom to maintain an in-

tercourse would, on their part, be both criminal and degrading.

Our officers, it seems, but rarely visited their countrymen-prisoners, saying, as their reason, "to what purpose repeat our visits to these abodes of misery and dispair, when they had neither relief to administer or comfort to bestow. They rather chose to turn the eye from a scene they could not ameliorate." It was not without remark, too, that there was an impediment to their release by exchange maintained by the American rulers themselves, who were either unable or unwilling to sustain a direct exchange, because they foresaw that the British soldiers, when released, would immediately form new combatants against them; whereas our own men, especially of the militia, were liable to fall back into non-combatants, and perhaps, withal, dispirit the chance of new levies. Perhaps the stoical virtues of the rigorous times made apathy in such a cause the less exceptionable. On the other hand the British wished the prisoners to apostatize; and nothing was so likely to influence defection as the wish to escape from sickness and starvation.

RESIDENCES OF BRITISH OFFICERS.

"In all the pomp and circumstance of war."

As it aids our conceptions of the past to be able to identify the localities where men conspicuous in our

annals of the revolution dwelt, I set down the mansions which some of them then occupied.

General Gates, before the revolution, dwelt in the large house, now Young's cabinet rooms, No. 69 Broad street. There Gates had that house splendidly illuminated in 1762, for the news of the Stamp Act repealed, probably as a measure to conciliate the people. In the same house once dwelt Gen. Alexander, afterwards our Lord Stirling.

Governor Tryon lived, after his residence in the fort was burnt, in the house now the Bank of New-York, at the corner of Wall and William streets.

Gen. Robinson, commandant of the city, lived at one time in William street, near to John street. At another time he lived in Hanover Square, now the premises of Peter Remsen & Co. No. 109. He was an aged man, of seventy-five years of age.

Col. Birch, was also commandant of the city a long while, and lived in Verplank's house, the same site on which the present Bank of the United States, in Wall street, stands.

The residence of Admiral Digby, and indeed of all naval officers of distinction arriving on the station, was Beekman's house on the north-west corner of Sloate lane and Hanover Square. There dwelt, under the guardianship of Admiral Digby, *Prince Wm. Henry.* The same now king of England. What associations of idea must be produced in the minds of those who can still remember when he walked the streets of New-York in the common garb of a midshipman's "roundabout," or when they saw him a knocked-kneed lad, joining the boys in skating on the Kolch pond. Could he again see New-York, he would not know the rival London.

Gen. H. Clinton had his town residence at N. Prime's house, (first built for Capt. Kennedy), at No. 1 Broadway, on the Battery. His country-house was then Doct. G. Beekman's, on the East River, near Bayard's Place.

Sir Guy Carlton also occupied the house of N. Prime; and for his country residence, the house at Richmond Hill, on Greenwich street, afterwards the residence of Col. A. Burr. Lord Dorchester also dwelt at the latter house. It has now been lowered 22 feet, to make it conform to the surrounding new streets and improvements.

Gen. Howe dwelt in N. Prime's house at the south end of Broadway, next to the Battery.

Gen. Knyphausen, commander of the Hessians, dwelt in the large house, even now grand in exterior ornaments, &c., in Wall street, where is now the Insurance Co., next door eastward from the New-York Bank.

Admiral Rodney, when in New-York, occupied for his short stay the house of double front of Robert Bowne, No. 256 Pearl street.

Governor Geo. Clinton had his dwelling in the present "Redmon's Hotel," No. 178 Pearl street. It was splendid in its day, of Dutch construction; it had a front of five windows and six dormer windows; its gardens at first extended through to Water street, which was then into the river.

All along the front of Trinity church ground, called "the English church" formerly, was the place of the military parade, called by the British "the Mall." There the military band played, and on the opposite side assembled the spectators of both sexes.

I bestowed unusual pains to ascertain the residence and conduct of the traitor Gen. Arnold. I found such variety and opposition of opinion, as to incline me to believe there was some intentional obscurity in the residence, as a better security to his person against capture. The weight of evidence, however, decides me to believe he dwelt at two places in New-York; and that his chief residence, as a separate establishment, was at the west side of Broadway, and at the third house from the river. There Mr. Rammay said he dwelt, and had one sentinel at his door; whilst Sir H. Clinton, at Prime's house at the corner, had two. John Pintard Esq. told me of his being present at Hanover Square when his attention was called by whispers, "not loud but deep," of, "see the traitor-general!" He saw it was Arnold, coming under some charge from Sir Henry Clinton at the Battery, to Gen. Robertson, then understood by Pintard to be the commandant of the city. It was said, that after the usual salutations with Robertson, he requested his aid Capt. Murray, a dapper little officer, to show Gen. Arnold the civilities and rarities of the place. The spirited captain strutted off alone, saying, "Sir, his Majesty never honoured me with his commission to become gentleman-usher to a traitor!"

There seems almost too much point in the story to be strictly true, but it was the popular tale of the day among the Whigs incog. Mr. L. C. Hamersley told me he saw Arnold at Verplank's house in Wall street, where is now the United States Bank; and then he thought Arnold lived there with Col. Birch. Robert Lennox, Esq. thought he lived with Admiral Digby.

As it may interest some of our readers to know something of the personal appearance of officers about whom they have so often heard and read in our history, we here add some brief notices described by an accurate observer, to wit:—

Sir Wm. Howe was a fine figure, full six feet high, and admirably well proportioned. In person he a good deal resembled Washington, and might have been mistaken for him at a distance. His features, though good, were more pointed, and the expression of his countenance was less benignant. His manners were polished, graceful, and dignified.

Sir Henry Clinton was short and fat, with a full face, prominent nose, and an animated intelligent countenance. In his manners he was polite and courtly, but more formal and distant than Howe; and in his intercourse with his officers, was rather punctilious and not inclined to intimacy.

Lord Cornwallis in person was short and thick set, but not so corpulent as Sir Henry. He had a handsome aquiline nose, and hair, when young, light and rather inclined to sandy; but at the time of his leaving here it had become somewhat gray. His face was well formed and agreeable, and would have been altogether fine had he not blinked badly with his left eye. He was uncommonly easy and affable in his manners, and always accessible to the lowest of his soldiers, by whom he was greatly beloved. With his officers he used the utmost cordiality.

Gen. Knyphausen, who commanded the Germans,

was a fine looking German, of about 5 feet eleven, straight and slender. His features were sharp, and his appearance martial.

Tarleton was below the middle size, stout, strong, heavily made, with large legs, but uncommonly active. His eye was small, black, and piercing; his face smooth, and his complexion dark; he was quite young, probably about twenty-five.

Col. Abercrombie, who afterwards gained so much eclat in Egypt, where he fell, was one of the finest built men in the army; straight and elegantly proportioned. His countenance was strong and manly, but his face was much pitted by the small pox. When here he appeared to be about forty.

ANCIENT EDIFICES.

The venerable pile, by innovation razed.

The *Walton House*, No. 324 Pearl street, was deemed the nonpareil of the city in 1762, when seen by my mother, greatly illuminated in celebration of the Stamp Act repealed. It has even now an air of ancient stately grandeur. It has five windows in front, constructed of yellow Holland brick; has a double pitched roof covered with tiles, and a double course of balustrades thereon. Formerly its garden extended down to the river. The family is probably descended of the Walton, who, a century ago, gave the name of "Walton's Ship Yard" at the same place. Wm. Walton, who



Ferry House, New York - corner of Broad & Garden Sts



Lith Rissol Browne.

Stadt-Huys, New York - built 1602 - razed 1700.

was one of the council, and the first owner of the above house, made his wealth by some preferences in the trade among the Spaniards of South America and Cuba.

There are at present but four or five houses remaining of the ancient Dutch construction, having "pediment walls" surmounting the roof in front, and giving their gable ends to the street; a name once almost universal.

In 1827 they took down one of those houses in fine preservation and dignity of appearance, at the corner of Pearl street and the Old Slip, marked 1698. About the same time they also took down another on the north-east side of Coenties Slip, marked 1701. The opposite corner had another, marked 1689.

In Broad street is one of those houses marked 1698, occupied by Ferris & Co., No. 41. Another, appearing equally old, but of lower height, stands at the north-east corner of Broad and Beaver streets. These, with the one now standing, of three stories, No. 76 Pearl street, near Coenties Slip, are I think the only ones now remaining in New-York. "The last" of the Knickerbockers. The passion for modish change and novelty is levelling all the remains of antiquity.

The ancient "*Stadt Huys*," formed of stone, stood originally at the head of Coenties Slip, facing on Pearl street towards the East River, is now occupied by the houses No. 71 and 73. It was built very early in the Dutch dynasty, 1642, and became so weakened and impaired in half a century afterwards, as to be recommended by the court sitting there to be sold and another to be constructed. The minutes of common council, which I have seen in Gen. Morton's office, are to this effect:—In 1696 it is ordered that inquiries be made

how the "City Hall," and the land under the trees by Mr. Burgher's path, would sell." In 1698 they agree to build the "new City Hall" by the head of Broad street, for £3,000; the same afterwards the Congress Hall, on corner of Wall street.

In 1699 they sell the old City Hall to John Rodman, for £920, reserving only "the bell, the king's arms, and iron works, (fetters, &c.) belonging to the prison," and granting leave also to allow the cage, pillory, and stocks *before the same*, to be removed within one year; and the prisoners in said jail within the said City Hall, to remain one month." In front of all these on the river side, was placed the Rondeal or Half Moon fort, where it probably assisted the party sheltered in the City Hall while the civil war prevailed.

All these citations sufficiently show that here was really a City Hall as a court of justice, with the prison combined. All the tradition of the old men has been, that "*there* was once the old jail." We know from Dutch records that there was an earlier prison than this once within the fort, say in 1640. We know also, that this Stadt Huys was originally constructed by orders of Gov. Keift, for a *Stadt Herberg* or City Tavern. Soon after it was made to serve both for the company's tavern and City Hall at the same time. Here the partizans in the civil war held their fortress, and at them balls were fired from the fort; one of which, driving into a neighbouring wall, I have lately seen. In time the numerous persons crowding the courts held in it weakened the building, and made it needful to take it down in 1700. It would seem, that as "it was old and run to decay," a second building had supplied its place

in 1701, as that was the mark which that house, taken down on the spot in 1827, then bore.

The *City Hall*, at the head of Broad street fronting on Wall street, stood out beyond the pavement in that street, and must have been finished in 1700. Its lower story formed an open arcade over the foot pavement. It was also the proper prison of the city, and having before it, on Broad street, a whipping post, pillory, &c. There was also held the sessions of the Provincial Assembly, the Supreme Court, and the Mayor and Admiralty Courts; it was also the place of election. It was finally altered to suit the Congress, and such as it then was has been preserved in an engraving done by Tiebout in 1789; the jail prisoners were at that time moved to the then "new jail in the Park." But the Congress removing to Philadelphia, through the influence of Robert Morris, as the New-Yorkers set forth in a caricature, it was again altered to receive the courts and the State Assembly. Finally, all was removed to the present superb City Hall of "everlasting marble." It is curious respecting the City Hall, that it was originally constructed on the site and out of the materials of a stone bastion, in the line of the wall of defence along Wall street; and after it was built, it is on record that it was ordered that it be embellished with the arms of the King and the Earl of Bellermont, which, when done, the corporation ordered that the latter should be taken down and broken. What could that indignity mean, especially so near the time of his death, which occurred in 1701. The British, while in New-York, used the City Hall as the place of the main guard; at the same time they much plundered and broke up the only public library, then contained in one of its chambers. Its

best stile of appearance was on the occasion of being fitted up for the first Congress under the Constitution, directed by the engineer, Major L'Enfant. It was in its gallery on Wall street, in April 1789, that Gen. Washington was inaugurated *the first President* of the United States; a memorable event, attempted to be exhibited in the annexed picture done from an original made at the time by Tiebout. This important public ceremony, the oath of office, was done in the *open gallery* in front of the Senate Chamber, in the view of an immense concourse of citizens collected in Broad street. The doors, windows, and roofs of every house at same time were thronged with charmed and exulting spectators. There this nobleman of nature, in his noble height and port —" the beheld of all beholders,"—in a suit of dark silk velvet of the old cut, steel hilted small sword by his side, hair in bag and full powdered, in black silk hose and shoes with silver buckles, made his sworn pledge as President, to Chancellor Livingston on a superb quarto bible still preserved by St. John's Lodge, No. 1. How uprightly, intelligently and disinterestedly he executed his task and rendered that pledge as the *Pater Patriæ* of his country, history will never cease to tell—to his fame and glory.

The *first theatre* being destroyed in Beekman street, a second theatre was established in John street, between Nassau street and Broadway. There British officers performed sometimes for their amusement. Buonaparte's activity and vigour of mind would have found them more characteristic and busy employ. It was well for us that the army had such material.

There were two ancient *Custom Houses*, one stood at the head of Mill street, a confined little place; a more



Lith. Risso & Browne

Federal Hall on Wall St. N. Y. —— and Washington's installation 1789.

respectable one, is the same now a grocery store on the north-west corner of Moore and Front streets. Mr. Ebbets, aged 76, remembered it used as such. At the same time the basin was open all along Moore street. The present N. W. Stuyvesant told me this was the same building once the "Stuyvesant Huys" of his celebrated ancestors. In front of the building was a public crane.

The *Exchange* stood near there, on arches, across the foot of Broad street, in a line with Water street; it was taken down after the revolution. Under its arches some itinerant preachers used occasionally to preach.

The *first Presbyterian Church*, built on the site of the present one in Wall street near Broadway, was built in 1719; and it is on record in Connecticut, that churches there took up collections to aid the primitive building.

REFLECTIONS AND NOTICES.

"When I travelled I saw many things,
And I learned more than I can express."—Eccl.

In my travels about New-York, looking into every thing with "peering eyes," I saw things which might not arrest every one, and which I am therefore disposed to set down.

New-York, as a whole, did not strike me as a deformity that it had several narrow and winding lanes. I might prefer, for convenience of living, straighter and wider streets, as their new built ones in every direction

are; but as a visiter, it added to my gratification to wind through the unknown mazes of the place, and then suddenly to break upon some unexpected and superior street or buildings passing in another direction. It gives entertainment to the imagination, to see thus the lively tokens of the primitive Dutch taste for such streets; and the narrow lanes aided the fancy to conceive how the social Knickerbockers loved the narrow lanes for their social conveniences, when, setting in their stoopes in evenings on either side the narrow pass, they enjoyed themselves in social Dutch, not unlike the "social vehicles" now used for travelling up and down Broadway, and ranging the passengers face to face.

I felt also pleased and gratified with the great variety of painted brick houses, done of necessity, because their bricks are inferior generally, but giving them occasion to please the eye with numerous fancies.

This is peculiarly the town of "merry church going bells." Their numerous spires as ornaments, seem to demand the others as apologies for such expensive steeples.

There is something in New-York that is a perpetual ideal London to my mind, and therefore more a gratification to me to visit than to abide. The stir and bustle;—the perpetual emulation to excel in display;—the various contrivances, by signs and devices, to allure and catch the eye;— the imitations of London and foreign cities and foreigners, rather than our own proper republican manners and principles,—struck my attention every where. The very ambition to be the metropolitan city, like London, gave them cares which are not to be coveted. Why do we want our cities, and even our country, dense with foreign population? Is there no maximum

point, beyond which our comforts and ease must proportionably diminish? I fear so.

New-York is distinguished for its display in the way of signs; every device and expense is resorted to to make them attractive, crowding them upon every story, and even upon the tops and ends of some houses above. One small house in Beekman street has twelve signs of lawyers; and at 155 Pearl street, the name of Tilldon and Roberts was painted on the stone steps of the door!

"A wilderness of strange but gay confusion."

In truth, it struck me as defeating their own pupose, for the glare of them was so uniform as to lose the power of discrimination. It is not unlike the perpetual din of their own carriage wheels, unnoticed by themselves though astounding to others.

These signs, however, had some interest for me, and especially along Pearl street, where they were of tamer character than in Broadway, and were so much the easier read. There I read and considered the nomenclature of the town. I saw by them that strangers had got hold of the business and the wealth of the place. "The busy tribes" from New England supplied numerous names; and the names of the Knickerbockers were almost rarities in their own homes! Judicious persons told me they thought full one half of all the business done in New-York was "by the pushing Yankees," (I mean it to their credit!) one fourth more by foreigners of all kinds, and the remainder left a fourth for the Knickerbockers; some of them in business, but many of them reposing *otium cum dignitate*,

on the surprisingly increased value of their real estates. The ancients who still linger about as lookers-on, must sigh or exclaim, " strangers feed our flocks, and aliens are our vine-dressers !"

Jones' buildings, or Arcade, in Wall street, is a curious contrivance for mere offices—a real London feature of the place, where ground is precious.

I deem it strange, that in so rapidly an enlarging city I should see no houses " to let ;"—all seen occupied.

The frequency of fires, and their alarms, is one evil of over large population. The cry occurred every day or night I dwelt in the city. An old man (Mr. Tabelee) who had been twenty-eight years a fireman, told me, they never had an alarm of fire in summer in olden time.

New-York has now become an extremely finely paved city. Formerly many of their foot-walks had only the same kind of round pebbles which fill the carriage way. This gave occasion to Dr. Franklin to play his humour, in saying, a New-Yorker could be known by his gait, in shuffling over a Philadelphia fine pavement like a parrot upon a mahogany table ! Now, their large flag stones and wide foot pavements surpass even Philadelphia for its ease of walking ; and the unusual width of their flag-stone footways, across the pebbled streets at the corners, is very superior.

In visiting two of the Reformed Dutch churches, my mind ran out in various meditations and reflections. I thought of the ancients all gone down to the dust—of their zeal and devotion to the decrees of the Synod of Dort and of God—of their hope that their own language would never be superseded within those walls which they had reared ! Now, as I looked around

among the congregation for Knickerbocker visages and persons, I saw no caste of character to mark their peculiar race. You may discern a German in Pennsylvania as a coarser mould; but not so the Netherland progeny in New-York. Yet such as I found them, they were the only and last remains of the primitive settlers of New Amsterdam; it was only in such a collection of descendents that you could hope to find, if at all, the *sesquipedalia names* of their ancestors, such as these:—Mynheers Varrevanger, Vander Schuven, S'ouwert Olpheresse, Vande Spiegel, Van Bommel, Hardenbroeck and Ten Broeck, Boele Roelofsen, Van Ruyven, Ten Eyck, Verplanck Spiegelaer, Van Borssum, &c. &c.: not to omit the least of all little names, "De." These were names of men of property, on the earliest list assessed now extant.

It is interesting to witness occasionally, here and there the remains of the ancient town, as the houses in some instances of humble wooden fabric, continue as they were. Thus in so conspicuous and wealthy a place as Broadway and the Park,—"tall mansions to shame the humble shed,"—we see at the south-west corner of Warren and Broadway, a collection down each street, equal to four houses each way, of small two story frames. Down Broad street, a central place, are still many very mean looking low frames. They doubtless retain their places, because of paying better rents for their value than could be derived from more sightly edifices.

The New-York painters of fancy wood are certainly peculiar in their skill in tasteful decorations or accurate imitations. It is displayed in numerous fine imitations of oaken doors; sometimes in marble pillars and pos-

terns; some fine imitations of the pudding-stone columns, which cost so much in the capital of Washington; but finally, I think nothing can excel the excellency of the painting of the north Dutch church pulpit, where Dr. Brownlee is pastor. Every touch of it is true to the character of the bird-eye maple, and having the finest possible polish.

With more time I might possibly have found out some rarely aged persons of good experience in the past. I saw Sarah Paul, a colored woman, at No. 23 Lombardy street, of the rare age of *one hundred and fifteen* years,* as it was estimated. Her memory was too unstable to rest any remarkable facts upon, although she was sufficiently talkative. Another relic of "Lang Syne," was found in the intelligent mind and active person of old William Ceely, now an inmate of the Almshouse at Bellevue, at the advanced age of *one hundred and eight.* 'Tis only in the last year that he walked one hundred and fifty miles, to see relatives in Connecticut. How strange to see such persons so long escaped the "thousand ills that flesh is heir to!"

As I had looked in vain for any thing like primitive remains of "Oranje Boven" in the Dutch churches of New-York, I would fain have followed Knickerbocker himself to their "last hold" at *Communipaw*,—a name itself sufficiently sounding and mysterious to invite a stranger to an inspection and exploration, to learn, if he could, what it means and what it exhibits. Its allurement to me would have been to catch there a living picture of those characteristics appropriated to it by its comic historian, saying, "it is still one of the fast-

* She died in February, 1829.

nesses whither the primitive manners of our Dutch forefathers have retreated, and still are cherished with devout affection." The pleasure of a visit to such a place I was not favoured to indulge; but if it answers the description, it is the spot which the sons of Oranje Boven should specially consecrate to Dutch memory, by holding *there* their occasional festivals in rude simplicity; reviving there the recollection of their ancestors by crowning their festive boards with the very diet in kind which they once prized,—such as Suppawn and Malk, Hoof Kaas, Zult, Hokkies en Poetyes, Kool Slaa, Roltetje, Worst, Gofruyt Pens, &c. &c.

WATERING-PLACES.

"And when too much repose brings on the spleen,
And the gay city's idle pleasures cloy,
Swift as my changing wish, I change the scene,
And now the country, now the town enjoy."

The practice of summer travelling among the gentry and their imitators, is quite a modern affair. Our forefathers, when our cities were small, found no places more healthy or attractive than their homes; and generally they liked the country best "when *visited* from town." From that cause there were very few country-seats in existence; and what there were, were so near as to be easily visited on foot, "not for the good and friendly too remote" to call.

As population and wealth increased, new devices of pleasure were formed, and some *inland* watering-places

began to be visited, chiefly, however, at first for the benefit they might be supposed to confer upon the infirm. Next in order came *sea bathing*, most generally used at first by the robust; by those who could rough it; such as could depend upon their own supply of "small stores," and sheets, blankets, &c. Increase of such company in time afforded sufficient motive to residents on the favourite beaches to make such provision for transient visiters as could not conveniently make their own supply. Thus, yearly, such places of resort grew from little to greater, and by degrees to luxury and refinement. It is still, however, within the memory of several of the aged, when the concomitants of sea-bathing, before the revolution, were rough as its own surges; and for that very reason produced better evidences of positive benefits to visiters in the increase of robust feelings than they do now.

> "The dash of ocean on the winding shore—
> How does it cheer the citizen,
> And brace his languid frame!"

In this way we have seen the rise of Rockaway house and shore on Long Island; of Brighton house near Amboy; and last, but greatest in fame and company, *Long Branch*. This last was held before the revolution by Col. White, a British officer and an inhabitant of New-York city. The small house which he owned and occupied as a summer retreat, is still existing in the clump now much enlarged by Renshaw. In consequence of the war, the place was confiscated and fell into other hands, and finally for the public good. In 1790–1 it was purchased and fitted up in improved

style for boarders by Mr. McNight, who enriched himself to withdraw by selling out to Renshaw.

Prior to that period "Black Point," not far off, was the place of bathing. They had no surf there, and were content to bathe in a kind of water-house, covered. The tavern fare there was quite rude compared with present Long Branch luxuries. Cocoanut pudding and floating islands, &c. were delicacies not even known in our cities.

Indeed we cannot but see, that the most of former summer excursions were but for the men. They were generally deemed too distant and rough for female participation. But later improvements in conveyances and accommodations have brought in their full measure of ladies, gladdening the company at every place by those feminine attractions which lessen our cares and double our joys.

In the progress of wealth and luxury, the last device of pleasure has been the general practice of travelling excursions, now "boxing the compass" to every point. The astonishingly increased facilities of communications have diminished distances. Steam-boats transfer us to far distant places before we have fairly tried the varieties of a single day and night of their operation. Post coaches and fleet horses roll us as easy as if on our couches. New England and northern tours occur; the Grand Canal and Niagara are sought; Carbon Dale, the Morris Canal, Catskill Mountain-house, and the everlasting battlements of the basaltic rocks along the North River, form now the chief attractions. Along the base of these they glide, whilst wending their way to the crowds and festivities found at Ballston and Saratoga Springs. There the pine and sandy plains are

made animate by the city throng. The same wilds which were overrun by assaulting savages in 1745, killing and bearing off ninety of the country inhabitants, is now made the head-quarters of pomp and fashion.

The rage for travelling and public amusements is a topic upon which we feel prone to moralize. In the growing passion for this fashionable mode of expenditure, we see a marked departure from the simplicity, frugality, and industry of our forefathers; a breaking up of their good old home habits; an infraction of our professions as a plain republican people, whose rule is "moderation in all things."

If only the rich did this, all would be well. They thus benefit others and possibly do not injure themselves. Their restlessness may be as great a benefit to the community as the motions of Prince Esterhazy, at whose every step pearls drop from his garments. But are there not too many of those who aim to imitate them, who can ill sustain the loss of time and expense? Do we not often meet with families forsaking the shades and coolness of home for the dense and heated mass of steam-boats, worrying and distressing themselves "to be in the fashion?" They have fired their imaginations with the recitals of former visiters; have heard them talk of Lake George crystals; of Canadian music and British officers; of the "dark blue Ontario" with its beautiful little brood of *lakelets*. Some resolve to go to Quebec, just to show they have "as good a right" to see "good society," and the world around them, as their neighbours. Some, too, go because travelling is "so rapid and cheap." They see all kinds of characters on the move for fashionable resorts, and they must join the throng and "be like others." But here comes the rub.

where is the motive for patient industry and careful economy, when the savings of a month are spent in one trip to Saratoga or Trenton Falls?

Some, it is true, do really travel for their health, but they should generally set out with a good supply aforehand, or they may return from a losing voyage. Some go for information, but that is a barter trade, in which, if the dealers have little to put away, they cannot expect much in exchange.

In these travelling excursions, *the ladies* have latterly come in for a great share of fame as projectors. Many of them have been devised under the influence of curtain lectures and dialogues. "It is, you know, my dear," says madame to her spouse, "too unhealthy and disagreeable to spend the whole summer in the city. It injure the complexions of myself and daughters, and makes us all too bilious and pale to be cooped up within the precincts of a deserted neighbourhood." Besides, there is Mr. A. and Mr. B. and others, all of less means than we possess, and they are already gone off to recruit their strength and refresh their spirits; now climbing rocks upon the Catskill; next sipping Congress water and tripping cotillions at Saratoga; next whirling through the eddying rapids of the St. Lawrence. The good, the indulgent husband is still reluctant; he remembers his fall of stocks; insurance losses; his faithless guarantees, &c.; and faintly pleads inability for the occasion: but for him, example, and the general mover of his circle, overweighs all demurs, and the ladies and daughters go off under protection of a party of friends, leaving the good man to remain at home to see that personal and family interests are not neglected. As the dog star rages, the epidemic becomes common. Me-

chanics desert their business; retailers fling aside their yard sticks; doctors leave their patients to get well without them; lawyers take no cognizance of fees or special pleadings; wives leave husbands; schoolmasters empty their noisy urchins into the streets, to unlearn as much as they have learnt: all for the sake of "going into the country." Nor is this all: pastors desert their flocks, and the flocks run away from their pastors, leaving the faithful messengers who do remain to preach with countenances melancholy as Jeremiah, to empty seats and bare walls. They might indeed exclaim, "How does the city sit solitary that was full of people; and how have the houses become desolate that were full of children!"

The husbands are the chief sufferers in this passion for family travelling. Remaining at home, to guard with care the interests by which the family is sustained, he feels keenly the solitude of his empty halls and chambers; he stalks gloomily about, catching one meal here and another there. You can almost read it in his countenance that he is a bereaved man; and when you ask him after the welfare of his family, he answers with a sigh, "they've gone in the country." It was not always so. In soberer days the city was deemed quite as healthy as the country; and people were aware that the sun beat down as powerfully upon the dust and sand of a country village, or upon the loom and gravel of a highway, as in town.

These thoughts and notices, thus cast together, on watering-places and travelling excursions, may serve to apprise our young and pleasure-loving friends that there is now a new era, a love of display and motion, not cherished among us until very recently; at the same



Erie Canal.

Lith Russo & Browne.

time, the love of travel and observation, well understood, is of most commendable character.

To those who are intellectually qualified to profit by an observant eye, peering into every thing,

"Nature, exhaustless, still has power to warm,
And every *change of scene* a novel charm.
The dome-crown'd city, or the cottage plain,
The rough cragg'd mountain, or tumultuous main,
All, to the *thoughtful*, purest joys impart,
Delight his eye and stimulate his heart."

THE ERIE CANAL.

"The traveller with wonder sees
The white sail gleaming through the dusky trees,
And views the altered landscape with surprise,
And doubts the magic scenes which round him rise."

This grand Canal, the proud monument of the enterprize and public spirit of New-York, although not properly an affair of sufficient *age* to demand a special chapter in the present work, yet as it has stretched its long length through a long line of forest waste, which till then lay for many a mile in its pristine gloom and wilderness, it has therefore become a matter of proper interest to describe and compare the past with the present.

A tourist making his pleasant journey along the line of the present canal, seeing thriving villages, productive farms, and a dense population along its margin, could

scarcely conceive that this advancement in wealth and civilization had been the work of only fifteen years.

In the year 1819, when this great work was first set-to with effective operation, the then little settlements were "few and far between;" the advance settlers but rude and poor; and the country in general unsubdued and wild. The wolf still prowled; the catamount still sprang on its prey; the bear still growled in his den. When we contemplate the present in comparison with the past, so recent too is all this change, the mind is lost in wonder and admiration at the improving power and hand of man. The canal itself has not only grown into a source of immense profit to the state, but it has diffused wealth and comfort throughout all the former waste regions of the West. When we consider too, how many obstacles, both natural and moral, stood in prevention of its incipient beginning, we must feel peculiar gratitude to the ceaseless and untiring efforts of those first projectors and promoters, who persevered in its progress and execution. At first, numerous writers and speakers resisted the endeavour; they predicted it could not be achieved, they deemed it impossible to surmount such impediments as lay in its way. Finally, however, we see that they who had the hardihood to offer a new theory, have had the success to make all men think with them and to join in their commendation. The name of De Witt Clinton will long stand pre-eminent, as a bold and munificent patron of this great and productive enterprize.

This great canal traverses a country 360 miles in length, extending from Albany to Buffalo, a port on Lake Erie, and sometimes called, in the prospective

hope of its increase and prosperity, the "New-York of the Lakes."

In marking the prominent facts of this canal, beginning at Albany and going westward, we shall first notice the great difficulties overcome at the Cohoes' Fall, there lifting the boats, in the course of two miles, 100 feet by the aid of twelve locks. This may look like an easy affair now, but consider the men, the labour, and the money it once cost to produce the result. At the Little Falls it again ascends 40 feet by 5 locks of 8 feet. The country here is wildly romantic and ruggid; and patient and persevering was the toil near here to excavate, from the overhanging and tremendous cliffs of granite, a passage for boats along its impending brow. Thence, ascending 57 feet by 7 locks, it arrives at the dividing ridge near Rome; a ridge which from its height, forms a barrier which divides the waters that flow into Lake Ontario from those which flow into the Hudson. This "summit height," so called at Rome, is just 417 feet rise from the Hudson, overcome chiefly by 52 locks in the course of 100 miles. In traversing the country along the valley of the Mohawk, the canal has been made for many miles along the bed of that river, to avoid the great projections and points of hills jutting out into the river occasionally, especially at the Cohoes and Little Falls. At one place, four miles eastward of Schenectady, the canal crosses the river by an aqueduct 850 feet long and 21 feet high. What an object to contemplate for its grandeur, for its triumph as a measure of art. At Rochester another great aqueduct crosses the Genessee of 800 feet length, resting on 11 arches, and being just 500 feet above the Hudson and 64 feet below the waters of Lake Erie.

The first portion of the canal completed and put into productive use, was the line of 174 miles from Utica to Rochester, first set in operation in the year 1822. Although so recent, yet it was made through regions so purely in a state of nature, that long sections of the route seemed almost beyond human might to subdue. The Cayuga marshes near Senecca river were still in their primeval waste. There 2,000 men at a time struggled to force a passage, and only succeeded at the peril of losing several lives, and having one half their number made sick by toil and unhealthy exposure. Now contemplate the same regions, made fruitful, healthy, and prosperous. There, too, we notice the "Long Level" so called, stretching from Utica to Montezuma, 70 miles, without a lock. A rare circumstance, without a parallel in the world, except so far as nearly equalled by itself at the other extremity of the canal from Rochester to Lockport, where the "Genessee Level" runs 65 miles unobstructed by any locks. Arrived at Senecca river, the canal is made to pass *through the river*, having a towing path of articial construction along its side of three quarters of a mile in length. By and bye, proceeding westward through a country abounding in lakes, and redeeming and profiting the regions around, we arrive at the striking monument of human toil and industry—the "high embankment" of Irondequat, it being a stupendous mound of earth traversing the creek of that name over a culvert of 24 feet cord and 250 feet length. At an elevation of 70 feet of embankment, extending a mile in length, the beholder, filled with sublime emotions, sees himself lifted into mid-air, and peacefully and safely gliding along the bosom of the still canal, looking down many feet to the tops of the forests

below him, or extending his eye far and wide into the far-reaching prospect. As we approach Rochester on the Genessee river, one of the great and suddenly constructed towns of the west, we there rise 37 feet by 5 locks, and are then entered upon the "Genessee Level," extending to Lockport. At this place the canal encounters the Mountain Ridge, the most difficult object in all the route; it being $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles across, and going for three miles through solid rock to the depth of 20 to 30 feet. At Lockport, so called from its numerous locks, great basin, &c., the canal works through a mural precipice of 60 feet, having five sets of locks, set side by side double, of 12 feet lift. At the "summit level" of Lockport, the traveller will desire to halt and pause; he will regard this as the conquering point of the grand enterprize. He will consider, that but a few years since this region was the quiet and ruggid retreat of the soaring eagle. It seemed precluded from the approach or the use of man; but now he beholds a thronged town on the site, having 180 of its houses constructed in the first year of the canal! From the heights of this village he looks down to the foot of the canal, and there sees, in a great basin, numerous boats, the vehicles of commerce and exchange; or, turning his eyes abroad, he sees to distant regions, hears the roar of the Niagara cataract, and is aware that when improvement shall further advance, and by it level the intervening woods, he shall be enabled to behold the waves of the Ontario and the Erie, and to see upon their bosom the busy barks of commerce, and the swift speeding steamboats. In short, from this eagle-altitude he will behold the most picturesque and sublime prospect the world can produce. The beholder is here placed 260 feet

above the level of Ontario, and within 15 miles of its shore; and the intermediate country is fertile to a proverb.

Departing from this enchanting region where the imagination is on stretch, and where all around seems like the effect of magic, the traveller is quickly conveyed to Buffaloe harbour, the grand termination of this stupendous achievement. An enterprize which, although costing millions in its execution, is destined quickly to refund its cost, and to be a lasting benefactor to the state. Thus "flood to flood is social join'd;" and our country, from "a waste howling wilderness," is made "to blossom and flourish as the rose."

THE END.

38.225.156

AVERY
CLASSICS